

Israeli lobby: Develop industry

TEL AVIV (AP) — The head of Israel's industrial lobby Friday called on Israel's designated government to develop industry in the occupied territories to prepare for Palestinian autonomy. Industrial association head Dov Lauzman, addressing the trade and industry club in Tel Aviv, called for an "economic process that will set the political process" in the wake of the Labour Party's win in the June 23 general elections. Mr. Lauzman's remarks, broadcast on Israel Television, came as the Labour Party is attempting to cobble together a governing coalition with smaller parties elected to Israel's 120-seat parliament (see story below). Mr. Lauzman called for the immediate establishment of a Palestinian-Israeli forum to ensure that "in six or nine months the economy won't sabotage the political process." He said Israel "must build a comfortable, working economic infrastructure to create an independent autonomy (in the territories) so it can coexist with the Israeli economy." Mr. Lauzman strongly criticised the outgoing Likud government-appointed finance officials as having brought about unemployment and freezing industrial production.

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Saddam meets French group

PARIS (R) — Members of France's far-right National Front were received by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein this week in a rare audience, the party said Friday. Two of the front's European parliament members, Marin Lechideux and Jean-Claude Martinez, led a delegation for a week-long trip which also included meetings with Vice-President Taha Yassin Ramadan and Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz. They returned on Thursday. The National Front is a strong opponent of Arab immigration into France but showed sympathy for Iraq during the Gulf crisis. National Front leader Jean-Marie Le Pen visited Baghdad and secured the release of Western hostages there. He voiced strong opposition to the Western military campaign which ousted Iraq from Kuwait.

Italian deputies condemn Iran

ROME (R) — Italian parliamentarians have written to the secretary-general of the United Nations condemning alleged human rights abuses in Iran and calling for sanctions against Tehran. The letter, released on Friday, attacks what it describes as "terrorist activities" committed by the government of President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani against political opponents. The signatories, 377 deputies from all leading parties, also condemn the use of the death penalty in Iran and call on the U.N. Security Council to condemn Tehran for an air raid on Iranian rebels in neighbouring Iraq in April. "The extremely sensitive situation in this region demands a firm response from the international community against the Iranian regime," the letter said, urging the U.N. Security Council to impose arms and oil sanctions.

Mandela denies plot to seize power

ABUJA (R) — African National Congress (ANC) leader Nelson Mandela denied on Friday President F.W. de Klerk's allegation that his group was plotting to forcibly seize power in South Africa. "That is a false allegation and a distortion of the truth," he said. "The ANC is a democratic movement which will be attained through fruitful dialogue." Mr. Mandela told reporters in Nigeria after meeting President Ibrahim Babangida. Mr. De Klerk accused the ANC of seeking to sabotage peace negotiations to seize power during prime-time radio and television broadcasts on Thursday, appealing to black and whites to support his white-led government (see page 8). The ANC, enraged by the June 17 massacre of 43 people in the ANC stronghold of Boipatong, has withdrawn from democracy talks, porting the multi-party Convention for a Democratic South Africa (CODESA) on hold and accusing the government of not doing enough to halt township violence.

Judge rules BCCI compensation legal

LONDON (R) — A high court judge on Friday ruled that a scheme to help British customers of the closed Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) get some money back had been legal. More than 50 BCCI depositors took part in the plan, under which large deposits were split into smaller ones to qualify for state compensation, before the government closed the legal loophole.

Carrington: No progress in Sarajevo talks

SARAJEVO (R) — European Community (EC) envoy Lord Carrington came to Sarajevo for peace talks on Friday but said he had no headway in stopping the civil war. "I don't think we have made any progress at all today," he said after five hours of talks with representatives of the Muslim, Serb and Croat communities in Bosnia-Herzegovina (see story on page 8). Lord Carrington spoke to reporters as an international airlift of emergency supplies for the besieged city moved into full swing, with heavy transport aircraft from several nations roaring into the newly-secured airport.

Islamists challenge new Algerian leader to restore reforms or face violence

ALGIERS (Agencies) — The banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) on Friday challenged Algerian's new military-backed leader to restore democratic reforms or face a new cycle of violence. The warning in the clandestine "Friday Tribune" newsletter was the fundamentalist party's first reaction since Ali Kafi was appointed Thursday to head the ruling High State Council. Mr. Kafi, 64, replaces war hero Mohammed Boudiaf, who was gunned down by an assassin wearing a police uniform Monday during a speech in Annaba, eastern Algeria. "The new power has the choice between two diametrically opposed paths," said the newsletter, posted on a well outside the Al Arkam mosque during weekly prayers. "It can give back the people their say through freely elected representatives, or increase the cycle of violence by resorting to extreme methods," it said. Mr. Kafi pledged to combat the fundamentalists in his first address to the nation after being elevated Thursday as president of

the military-dominated High State Council. Popular opinion is split on whether Mr. Boudiaf was killed by the fundamentalists he tried to crush, or the ruling elite who feared his campaign to root out corruption. Several thousand women mourners converged on the Al Aia cemetery, where Mr. Boudiaf was buried Wednesday, to honour him. Independence Day celebrations Sunday have been cancelled. The council has run Algeria since January, when a military coup toppled President Chadli Ben Jeddid and cancelled the country's first free parliamentary vote, which the fundamentalists were winning. Hundreds died in subsequent unrest. The FIS' leaders were jailed and thousands of supporters detained. Armed attacks in recent months by Islamic extremists have claimed the lives of about 100 policemen and soldiers. The capital was edgy Friday. Riot police detained about 15 foreign photographers, including Fernando Ricardo of the Associ-

ated Press, for three hours after they tried to take pictures of worshippers at Al Sunna Mosque, a fundamentalist bastion. The photographers, mostly from France and Italy plus one Japanese television cameraman, were taken to a police station and had their passports examined. Their film was not seized. Mr. Kafi has created a panel of lawyers, soldiers and pro-government human-rights activists to find out who was behind Mr. Boudiaf's murder. It will report its findings in three weeks. The council took security matters into its own hands, diminishing the authority of Interior Minister Larbi Belkheir. Observers speculated he might be out of favour, though why is unclear. Mr. Boudiaf, 72, was one of the six historic leaders who launched Algeria's war against France. After independence in 1962, he fell out with his comrades over their creation of a single-party state. He spent 28 years in exile in Morocco. Mr. Boudiaf was called back to lead the country in January. His

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Israeli Labour begins formal coalition talks

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Yitzhak Rabin's Labour Party started formal negotiations with potential coalition partners Friday after Mr. Rabin's official appointment to form the next government. Labour's negotiating team met with the right-wing Tzomet and left-wing Meretz parties to discuss proposed government guidelines that both parties have criticised. The draft urges curbing Jewish settlements in the occupied territories but allowed expansion of those along "confrontation lines." It also proposes autonomy for Palestinians in the occupied territories. Tzomet, which fears autonomy could lead to a Palestinian state, presented Labour negotiators with alternative guidelines, Israel Radio said. Meretz, which would accept a Palestinian state in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, wants an outright freeze of Jewish settlements. Meretz lawmaker Yossi Sarid said there were still many disagreements between the two parties but they would work to settle the differences. Tzomet leader Rafael Eitan said his party also would try to "bridge the gaps." Last week's election gave

Labour 44 seats in the 120-member parliament, compared to the Likud's 32. Labour needs Meretz's 12 seats and Tzomet's 8 for a solid majority. Mr. Rabin, chosen as prime minister-designate Thursday by President Chaim Herzog, could also pull several religious parties into the government. Meretz's policy guidelines cover five areas: Israeli Arabs, diplomacy, human and civil rights, the status of religion, and the status of women. They include the following points for negotiation: — Israel would offer the Palestinians full autonomy as an interim settlement. Within the autonomy framework, all areas of responsibility would be handed over to the elected authority, except security and foreign affairs. Vital matters of special importance to both sides would be defined by consent and work out together. — The government would reiterate its support for U.N. Resolution 242 based on the traditional interpretation (i.e., land for peace), which was accepted by all previous governments except those of the Likud. — The law banning meetings with the PLO would be amended

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SLA position comes under resistance attack

MARIYOUN (Agencies) — Guerrillas attacked a hilltop position of Israel's militia allies in South Lebanon on Friday with anti-tank rockets and machineguns but no casualties were reported. Security sources said guerrillas fired four rockets at an Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia position on Shoumariyeh hill on the edge of Israel's "security zone," in the south. They then sprayed it with machinegun fire. Militiamen fired back and guerrillas retreated. The sources said there were no casualties reports from the second attack on the SLA this week. Fighters from Amal movement detonated a roadside bomb near an SLA patrol in the 15-kilometre deep border buffer zone on Tuesday. But no one was reported hurt. Raids on Israeli troops and the SLA were stepped up six weeks ago, prompting fierce retaliation by shelling and a string of air raids on Palestinian and Lebanese targets. Two Israeli helicopter gunships blasted a Palestinian base in South Lebanon Wednesday and a third aircraft on a support mission off the coast crashed into

Mediterranean, security sources said. The sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the Israeli helicopter went down off the border town of Naqoura shortly after the attack on the Palestinian refugee camp of Rashidiyeh on the outskirts of Tyre. One source said at least a crew member appeared to have gone missing. He said the ill-fated aircraft was a "rescue helicopter." These normally fly at distant during raids on South Lebanon to provide quick rescue for airmen in attacking aircraft should they run into trouble. The source and an officer with the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon said four Israeli helicopters were hovering over the water off Naqoura in what appeared to be a search operation. The crash, the security source said, appeared to have been caused by a "technical malfunction." Two helicopters earlier fired two rockets into a deserted house which had been used by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

Britain: Libyan details of IRA links evasive

LONDON (R) — Britain said on Friday information handed over by Libya last month on its dealings with Irish guerrillas was evasive and unsatisfactory in many areas and Tripoli was being asked to provide additional details. But the Foreign Office said it could not immediately confirm that British and Libyan representatives would meet in the near future — as indicated by U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali earlier on Friday. The U.N. chief said in a speech in London: "I hope that in the next few days there will be a second contact 'between representatives of the British and Libyan governments.'" Libya handed over information on its links with the Irish Republican Army (IRA) at a meeting in Geneva on June 9, complying with one of the demands Britain has made over Libya's alleged involvement in the 1988 bombing of a Pan Am airliner. The Foreign Office's initial reaction to the information was that it contained some positive elements which might help in the fight against the IRA. Friday's statement came after a further assessment. "Although containing positive elements, the information the Libyans provided on their links with the IRA on June 9 is in many areas evasive and unsatisfactory," a spokesman said. "We are now seeking clarification and further information on these areas from the Libyans," he said. "The information we are seeking would be of further operational value in the fight against the IRA." But the spokesman refused to say whether that would be done through diplomatic channels or in a face-to-face meeting. He also repeated Britain's position that providing details of Libya's links to the IRA, while a positive move, was only one of several U.N.-backed demands with which Tripoli must comply. "Central to this compliance is the surrender of the two (Libyans) accused of bombing Pan Am Flight 103 for trial in Scotland or the United States and satisfaction of French demands on the bombing of (French airliner) UTA 772," he said. The United Nations has imposed sanctions on Libya in support of U.S. and British demands for Tripoli to hand over the two Libyans and French demands for Libya to cooperate with its investigation into the 1989 bombing of the UTA plane over Niger.



Women grieve in the street at the funeral of Algerian leader Mohammed Boudiaf Wednesday

Jordan rejects reports of call for border closure

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan has not received any demand or request from any quarters to seal off its border with Iraq and the Kingdom would even consider let alone discuss such, an idea according to senior officials and diplomatic sources. "We have not heard of any request or demand that we completely seal off the border with Iraq," said one official. "How can we close the border with any country with which we are not at war?" In any event, added the official, "it is not a practical idea. Even if it was, it is highly unlikely that we would entertain such an idea, given our national commitment and concern that the people of Iraq get their humanitarian and medical needs." According to reports that surfaced late last week, Washington, leader of the anti-Iraq coalition, wanted Jordan to close its border post with Iraq and halt the flow of cargo and human traffic between the two countries. Jordan is Iraq's only outlet to the outside world. Iraq's borders with Iran remain open, but very little official traffic is reported across the border posts. The Iraqi-Turkish border was officially closed at the height of the Gulf crisis in 1990, and the Iraqi-Syrian border have been closed for several years. "It is preposterous for anyone even to suggest that we seal the border with Iraq," said another Jordanian official. "It will be a suggestion that the Iraqi people be denied food and medicine as well as access to treatment outside their country." "Is that what the international community wants us from Jordan or any other country for that matter? To deny a people their basic rights?" The reports came against the backdrop in criticism of Jordan in the American Congress for the Kingdom's rejection of stationing U.N. inspectors in its territory to check the enforcement of the sanctions against Iraq. Senior Jordanian officials have repeatedly said that the Kingdom has been living up its commitment to honouring the sanctions as a member of the international community, but will not compromise its credibility or honour by accepting the notion of having U.N. inspectors in its territory. U.S. Secretary of State James Baker said Wednesday that Washington was searching for ways to ensure that the flow of what the U.S. describes as "critical supplies" from entering Iraq.

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Sudan seeks \$200 m aid

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudan has asked its donors to provide some \$200 million to help resettle those in war-torn southern Sudan who have returned from areas controlled by the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), local papers said on Friday. The state-owned Al Ingaz Al Wazani said the request was made in a meeting between ambassadors of donor countries, including the United States, and the minister of finance and economic planning, Abdel Rahim Hamdi, and the minister of trade, cooperation and supply, Ibrahim Ubaidullah. It did not say when the meeting took place. Since the fall in May last year of former Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam who was the main backer of the SPLA, and a split three months later within the SPLA, Sudan has reported that thousands of armed men and civilians have been returning to government garrisons and government-held areas under rebel control. The two ministers were reported by Al Sudan Al Hadith paper to have told the ambassadors that since recapture by government forces of a number of towns in southern Sudan from the SPLA and an influx of civilians into those areas in recent months, there was a need to provide agricultural and other basic supplies to these people for their rehabilitation.

Slovaks vote Havel out of office

PRAGUE (R) — Embittered Slovak parliamentarians carried out their vow to remove President Václav Havel from office on Friday, voting him down twice in Czechoslovakia's presidential election. Mr. Havel, a former dissident playwright who has led his rapidly disintegrating country for two-and-a-half years since the overthrow of communist rule, was overwhelmingly rejected by the eastern region in his bid for a third term. He won sufficient support from Czech deputies in the second round of voting to remain in office for a further four years. But he was blocked by Slovak deputies who were elected on a nationalist platform. Mr. Havel won only a humiliating 18 votes instead of the 38 he needed from the Slovak part of the federal assembly's House of Nations. The rejection of Mr. Havel, whose huge moral authority and international prestige have helped steer Czechoslovakia towards democracy since the "velvet revolution" of late 1989, is the clearest signal so far the country is destined to split into two independent states — Slovakia and the Czech lands.

Iraq dismisses reports of putsch

CAIRO (Agencies) — A senior Iraqi official denied on Friday reports that a mechanised brigade of the Republican Guard had tried to topple President Saddam Hussein. "This did not happen. What news agencies have reported is what America and its allies have been dreaming of," Taha Yaseen Al Basri, head of the Arab Affairs Department at the Iraqi Foreign Ministry, told reporters at Cairo airport. He was responding to a question about an Iraqi opposition report that a Republican Guard brigade moved towards the capital on Monday to topple the government but was foiled by loyalist forces. A statement by the opposition Iraqi national congress issued in London on Thursday said the brigade was "intercepted" by President Saddam's "special security battalions which are commanded by General Kamal Mustafa." "A battle took place on the northern outskirts of Baghdad during which the commander of the brigade attempting the coup, Brigadier-General Sahri Mahmoud, a native of Mosul, was killed," it said. The statement said the group learned of the coup attempt through an opposition source in the Iraqi army who fled into a neighbouring country and contacted it. It did not name the country and gave no other details. There was no independent confirmation of the opposition report. The Iraqi News Agency (INA), monitored in Nicosia, later Friday quoted a government spokes-

man as saying reports of a coup attempt Monday were "ludicrous and reflect the wishful thinking and obsessions of the wicked American National Security Council." "Although these reports are too silly to deserve comment, one often has to throw back stones to silence the voices of evil," the brief dispatch said. Mr. Basri accused the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) of making up the coup report. "Such news reports fall within the psychological war waged by the American intelligence to psychologically influence the Iraqi people after they failed to gain material influence," he said in the first official Iraqi comment on the report. On Friday, the Iraqi rebel movement said a massive explosion two days ago demolished the police headquarters in Iraq's northern oil city of Kirkuk and was coupled with street battles between government forces and deserters. The congress said the blast killed or wounded up to 400 people, most of them detainees at the police headquarters. There was no immediate confirmation of the report, telefaxed from the dissidents' headquarters in London to the Associated Press in Nicosia. Clashes also have raged in Kirkuk, the statement said. One gunbattle Tuesday night outside the department of education involved police, army and secret service deserters, the congress statement said. It said several people were

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Israelis kill Palestinian near Manger Square

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Israeli soldiers on Friday shot to death a Palestinian during stone-throwing protests near Manger Square in the West Bank town of Bethlehem, the army said. The violence began when masked Palestinians belonging to the Muslim fundamentalist group Islamic Jihad allegedly threw stones at soldiers, who responded with gunfire, according to the army. Ashraf Abdul Rahim Yaghmour, 25, was fatally shot in the head and three other protesters were wounded, Arab reporters said. The army said it had no reports of wounded. The clash came just outside the Church of the Nativity, built over the site where tradition says Jesus was born. Yaghmour's death brought to 938 the number of Palestinians killed by Israeli soldiers and civilians since the December 1987 start of the uprising against Israeli occupation. In the Gaza Strip, five Muslim fundamentalists were shot and wounded in a battle with backers of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), Palestinian reporters said. The shootings occurred Thursday night in the village of Bani Suheila. Palestinian reporters said. Five activists of the mainstream Fatah faction broke into the village community centre and opened fire, wounding five sup-

porters of Hamas, the reports said. Two Hamas followers remained hospitalised in moderate condition Friday, and the other three were released. In the week before the shooting, Hamas and Fatah, the two largest factions in Gaza, both had distributed leaflets threatening each other in a battle for control. Fatah backs the U.S.-brokered peace negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians, while Hamas opposes them. Prisoners released The army confirmed Friday that it released 10 Palestinians who were held in Israeli prisons since their capture in Lebanon in 1985. The announcement from the army spokesman's office followed confirmation by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) on Thursday that it had helped 10 Palestinian prisoners reach Switzerland. First word of the release had come from Arab sources in the Middle East who requested anonymity. The ICRC identified the released men as members of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command. The group was responsible for attacks on Israeli troops when they occupied Lebanon in 1982-85.

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Qatar rejects Bahraini demand on island dispute

NICOSIA (R) — The Gulf state of Qatar has rejected a demand by Bahrain to present a joint petition to the World Court at the Hague over their festering territorial row, according to a Foreign Ministry statement quoted by the official Qatar News Agency (QNA).

Qatar said it will go ahead with its unilateral claim to recover a cluster of desolate but potentially oil-rich islands and reefs now controlled by its neighbour.

Qatar last July went alone to the court, asking it to decide its claim over the territory controlled by Bahrain under a border demarcation decided when Britain handled the foreign affairs of the two states in the 1930s.

The statement quoted by QNA late on Thursday said Qatar was sticking to this course despite Bahrain's request two weeks ago they first sign a joint statement on what is in dispute.

The International Court of Justice (ICJ) last month started looking at its own competence in judging the issue after receiving the Qatari claim and a Bahraini response.

The Qatari agency said the ICJ decided on June 26 that "it is necessary to enter into a second round of written arguments. Qatar has to submit its notes by Sept. 28, 1992, and Bahrain has to send its arguments by Dec. 29, 1992."

The statement said Qatar would follow this course because it believed that the ICJ was the authority most competent to judge the issue.

To achieve Bahrain's desire to reach a final settlement to the dispute between the two states through the ICJ... must not be linked to the signing of additional agreements such as the one proposed by our brothers in Bahrain," the statement said.

Both Qatar and Bahrain have said they would abide by an ICJ decision over the dispute which flared in 1986 when Qatar landed troops on a disputed reef and held foreign workers building a coastal station for Bahrain.

They were released 17 days later after Saudi mediation.

Qatar took the case to the ICJ after five years of fruitless Saudi efforts to settle the issue out of court but the two neighbours could not agree on what is at issue, diplomats said.

They said that Qatar wants to limit the case to its claim to the islands, sandbanks and reefs, many of which lie close to the Qatari mainland.

Bahrain wants to widen the case to look at its own claim to part of the Qatar mainland around northwestern town of Zubara. This was controlled by Bahrain's ruling Al Khalifa family until early this century when the Al Thani rulers of Qatar extended their control to the whole of the Qatar peninsula.

Clinton expresses support for Israel

Reprinted from the Jerusalem Post

LOS ANGELES — Governor Bill Clinton pledged Wednesday to oppose the creation of an independent Palestinian state and to launch a joint high technology development programme with Israel, as he detailed his policy positions on the Middle East.

At the same time, the presumptive Democratic presidential candidate attacked President George Bush's "relentless pressure on Israel," and protested that "this is no way to treat a steady friend and consistent ally. As president," he promised, "I will put an end to this."

The Arkansas governor delivered his remarks in a bi-coastal talk to the newly formed Clinton National Jewish Leadership Council. Mr. Clinton appeared in person at the Washington, D.C.

meeting of the group, and his words were transmitted via satellite hookup to a similar gathering in Los Angeles.

Mr. Clinton appeared upbeat on a day that saw him leading independent candidate Ross Perot and Mr. Bush in the polls for the first time.

In his talk, frequently punctuated by the applause of the partisan audience, Mr. Clinton stressed nine points of his Middle East platform:

- Loan guarantees and other aid to Israel to assist in the ingathering and absorption of Russian Jewish immigrants. "The dream must not be deferred," he stated.
- Advance the peace process, but without Washington pre-determining the outcome or imposing conditions.
- Oppose creation of an independent Palestinian state.

• Create a U.S.-Israel High Technology Commission for the 21st century, to help apply "the genius of Israel's people."

• Any peace settlement must assure the security of Israel's boundaries.

• No support for "dangerous, despotic regimes," such as Iraq and Syria.

• Enhanced logistical cooperation with Israel and assurances that Israel will retain its qualitative military edge.

• Completion of the Arrow ballistic missile programme, based on American-Israel cooperation.

• Jerusalem to remain Israel's undivided capital.

During a question-and-answer period linking Washington and Los Angeles, Mr. Clinton hedged when asked if he would move the U.S. embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

"Not if it would affect the peace process," he answered. "Timing is crucial and nothing should be done that might destabilise the process."

Mr. Clinton warmly praised Israel's commitment to democracy, as shown in the recent election, and said he looks forward to working with Yitzhak Rabin as the likely prime minister. He added that he would await Mr. Rabin's initiative on the peace process but believes that the United States should act as a catalyst, and later as a guarantor of any settlement, through the United Nations.

In response to another question, Mr. Clinton said he would support any changes proposed by the new Israeli government to streamline the country's economy and make it more competitive.

Iraqi defaults result in \$1,800m in U.S. claims

WASHINGTON (USA) — Two U.S. banks have filed claims totalling \$1,800 million against the U.S. government's Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) due to Iraqi default on loans guaranteed by the corporation, the inspector general of the U.S. Department of Agriculture reported to a congressional subcommittee July 1.

The CCC has paid out \$1.3 billion on these claims, Leon Sneed, the inspector general, said during a hearing of the House of Representatives' Agriculture Committee's subcommittee on Department, Research and Foreign Agriculture.

The hearing, which focused on Iraq's participation in agricultural guaranteed loan programmes, was chaired by Representative Charles Rose (Democrat from North Carolina).

There are over 1,600 claims pending against the CCC due to Iraqi defaults, with \$360 million representing claims from the Banca Nazionale del Lavoro (BNL) branch in Atlanta, Sneed stated.

He noted that six employees of the BNL-Atlanta are under indictment for committing fraud in making illegal loans to Iraq, among them the bank's manager,

who has pled guilty to 60 felony counts, he also noted that an inter-governmental task force, which includes the Justice Department, is continuing its investigation of "persons and entities associated with BNL and Iraq."

The Justice Department is currently reviewing BNL's claims against the CCC, Sneed said, adding that no payments have been made to BNL as of yet.

Mr. Sneed reported that an examination of the CCC's bank approval process of foreign banks showed that it was "flawed."

In October 1989, the office of the inspector general began its examination of CCC's process of reviewing the credit-worthiness of foreign banks that issued letters of credit for foreign buyers, Mr. Sneed said.

The examination focused on a CCC decision to grant a \$514 million credit line to the Rafidain Bank in Iraq. The office asked CCC to provide documentation on its review process of the Iraqi bank's credit-worthiness — documentation that was not provided until long after its report was issued, Mr. Sneed said.

"At the time of our review, CCC officials could not produce

the information we requested, which would have included Rafidain Bank financial statements and other economic data," Mr. Sneed reported. In addition, CCC officials "could not determine the last time they had reviewed the bank's financial statements, and could not determine when the bank's credit line of \$514 million was set," he said.

Commenting on the CCC's bank approval process in general and its dealings with Iraq in particular, Mr. Sneed said, "The whole process as a whole was flawed, whether it dealt with Iraq or any other country."

"We don't have a very effective system in regards to oversight and ensuring that taxpayers' money is protected," Representative Leon Panetta (Democrat from California) said in response to Mr. Sneed's testimony.

"The bottom line is not Iraq," Mr. Panetta said. "The bigger issue is irresponsibility in the overall handling of these kinds of credits," he said.

Mr. Sneed pointed out that the CCC has taken a number of steps to improve its review process.

Among these improvements, the CCC has reorganised its treasurer's office to better focus

on programme accounting and bank risk assessment and implemented a new decision-making process to better evaluate credit risk involved with allocating export guarantees, Sneed said.

CCC officials have also agreed to document their credit risk analysis of foreign banks, perform periodic on-site visits of foreign banks, and improve training provided to staff, he added.

Attorney General William P. Barr has defended the Justice Department's handling of loans to Iraq, saying that a year-long delay in bringing charges was the result of professional differences and not foreign policy considerations.

However, in testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee, Mr. Barr acknowledged that the department played a role in last-minute plea negotiations with the BNL-Atlanta bank manager at the centre of scandal.

Critics have charged that the BNL investigation was delayed to avoid straining ties with Iraq and that broader allegations about the bank's role in financing Iraq's military buildup were not pursued aggressively.

Afghan president's remarks upset India

KABUL (R) — The Indian ambassador to Afghanistan has criticised Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani for his comments supporting a boly war in the disputed state of Kashmir.

"President Rabbani's comments on Kashmir represent a discordant note to the context of private statements about the desire for positive relations with the government of India," Indian Ambassador V.J. Nambiar told reporters.

"The president's reference to holy war places the entire Kashmiri question in a communal context," said the Indian ambassador. "It makes the issue Muslim versus non-Muslim, which is in neither party's interest."

The Afghan president made the comment on Tuesday night

during his inaugural address. Kashmir, a Muslim-majority former princely state disputed between India and Pakistan, has been plagued by violence since the 1947 partition of India and Pakistan.

India controls about two-thirds of Kashmir and Pakistan the remainder. Two of the three wars fought between the two countries have been over Kashmir.

More than 4,000 people have been killed in Indian-controlled Kashmir over the past two years as militants among its population battled Indian security forces over the issue of self-determination.

Decades-old United Nations resolutions have called for a plebiscite in Kashmir to allow the population to decide whether to

become part of Pakistan or remain with India.

But Mr. Nambiar said Mr. Rabbani's reference to those resolutions was irrelevant since a 1972 Simla agreement between India and Pakistan had made Kashmir a bilateral matter.

Afghanistan's new Islamic government came to power on April 28 after guerrilla forces captured Kabul.

India provided support for the Moscow-backed Kabul government throughout the war, while Pakistan was a principal supplier of the guerrillas.

Diplomatic sources speculated that India would be inclined to view Mr. Rabbani's statement as an attempt to stir up anti-Afghanistani rhetoric unless Afghanistan took specific steps to assist Kashmiri militants.

Rebel Kurds kill seven in Turkey

DIYARBAKIR, Turkey (R) — Separatist Kurdish guerrillas killed two Turkish police officers and a civilian in two raids in east and southeast Turkey, officials said on Friday.

They said members of the Kurdistan Labour Party (PKK) killed the officers and gendarmes in a raid on a gendarmerie post in Taskonak village in Sirnak province on Thursday night.

In another incident PKK fighters killed a man and wounded a civilian village guard in a raid on the mountain village of Cacan in Kars province bordering Armenia, they said.

Officials say the PKK has stepped up attacks on civilians in recent months.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Pollard appeals to supreme court

WASHINGTON (R) — Lawyers for Jonathan Pollard, who confessed and was convicted of spying for Israel, have asked the U.S. supreme court to review the life sentence he received after pleading guilty to violating U.S. espionage laws. They argued that a U.S. court of appeals last March applied the wrong legal standards in rejecting Pollard's claim that the U.S. government broke the 1986 plea-bargain agreement it made with him. In the legal papers filed with the supreme court, the lawyers said Pollard should be resentenced. They also said the guilty plea by Pollard, a former U.S. navy intelligence analyst, was unconstitutional because it was improperly linked to a similar plea by his wife, Pollard, a 38-year-old American Jew, has been in solitary confinement at a maximum security prison in Marion, Illinois. Pollard and his wife Anne were arrested outside the Israeli embassy in Washington Nov. 21, 1985, after trying to elude pursuing agents from the Federal Bureau of Investigation. He confessed to passing stacks of top-secret documents to Israel for 18 months in return for \$45,000 in cash. Pollard said he acted because important intelligence was being withheld from Israel. Pollard's wife, who has been reported to be ailing, was released from prison after about 40 months. They have divorced and she has moved to Israel. Pollard will not be eligible for parole until 1997. U.S. Justice Department attorneys are expected to urge the supreme court to deny the appeal when they file their court papers. The court is not expected to act on the case until its new term starts in October.

Israel, Seychelles establish diplomatic relations

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel and the Republic of Seychelles established diplomatic relations, making it the 17th African country to form or renew ties with the Jewish state in the past decade. Most African nations cut ties with Israel after the 1973 Middle East war. In May, Nigeria restored diplomatic relations with Israel after a 19-year break, and Angola established ties. Israeli-Seychelles relations were established in a ceremony in Victoria, the Seychelles' capital, attended by Israel's ambassador to Kenya, Arieh Oded, and Claude More, director general of Seychelles' foreign ministry. More expressed the hope ties with Israel would bring cooperation in the fields of tourism, agriculture and fishing, said Israel's foreign ministry spokesman Baruch Bina. The Seychelles are a group of about 115 islands about 1,000 kilometres off the east of coast of Africa in the Indian Ocean.

Bush urged to help Somalia

WASHINGTON (R) — About 90 members of the U.S. House of Representatives have urged President George Bush to lead an international effort to help relieve suffering in Somalia caused by a civil war. "Since fighting began in the streets of the capital city of Mogadishu last November, conditions have steadily worsened. Today the situation facing the Somali people is almost beyond belief," the congressmen said in a letter to Bush. "Well over half the population is at risk of starvation and over 30,000 people have been killed or wounded in the fighting," they said, adding that as many as 5,000 children under the age of five were dying each day. "Similar to actions to provide relief for the people of Sarajevo, United Nations efforts in Somalia demand strong multinational leadership and energetic diplomatic pressure to explore all possible means to extend humanitarian assistance to the people of Somalia," the bipartisan letter said.

Rockets fired at U.N. guards

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The United Nations is investigating two mysterious attacks on a U.N. guard office and a U.N. vehicle in Kurdish territory in northern Iraq, U.N. sources said. The sources said three rocket-propelled grenades were fired on Monday at a regional guard office at Salaymaniyeh but no one was injured. The previous week on June 25 a hand grenade exploded under an empty vehicle in Erbil, also in northern Iraq, belonging to the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF). The United Nations has 500 guards and 600 aid workers in Iraq and is currently attempting to renew an agreement with Iraqi authorities that guaranteed their presence and freedom of movement. The sources said U.N. officials in Baghdad were investigating but they said they had no evidence that the attacks were linked to current difficulties in renewing the agreement, which expired on Tuesday. The guards were first sent into northern Iraq after the Gulf war in April 1991 to monitor relief supplies.

Kuwaiti helicopter blocks smugglers

KUWAIT (R) — A Kuwaiti helicopter has blocked smugglers trying to take weapons and wine into Kuwait, a local newspaper said on Friday. The daily Al Anba, which did not say when the incident took place, said a helicopter was called in when three vans entered Kuwaiti territory and patrols failed to intercept them. The helicopter operation was the first of its kind in Kuwait since the end of the Gulf war, the paper said. Two of the vans escaped but the third was forced to stop. Weapons and wine were found in the car, but the newspaper did not say if any of the smugglers were arrested. The incident could not be confirmed as government offices are closed on Friday.

Cleric says now is best time to kill Rushdie

NICOSIA (AP) — A senior Iranian cleric Friday urged Muslims to prepare for the assassination of Salman Rushdie in accordance with an edict by Iran's late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini. Tehran Radio reported. Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati, one of the Iran's leading clerics, said he had read that the British government wanted to bring Mr. Rushdie out of hiding and gradually return him to a normal life. "What glad news, indeed. I give the glad tidings to those who have been waiting for him for long, that their time to wait is gradually ending and they should be ready to carry out their religious duty as soon as possible," Ayatollah Jannati said. Speaking in a sermon at Tehran University, he told worshippers that Muslims in Iran and around the world were awaiting to assassinate "the filthy Rushdie." But the British (government) had him under protection and nobody could reach him. The siege is gradually being lifted and they can attain their sublime goal. Even if one hundred persons are martyred in his path, it is worth it, and they would be among the best martyrs because they will be confronting the direct enemy of the Prophet and Islam. If they succeed it would be a great victory indeed."

Shamir ran Mossad hit squad — report

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — An Israeli newspaper reported Friday that Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir headed a special unit involved in assassinations during his 10 years in Israel's Mossad secret service.

Shamir spokesman Ehad Gol refused comment on the report in the respected Haaretz daily. "We never related to anything that has to do with the activities in the secret services of Israel, even when it comes to the prime minister," Mr. Gol said.

Isser Harel, who headed the Mossad during the time in question, also declined comment Friday.

Mr. Shamir, who announced he plans to retire after the election defeat last week of his Likud Party, has rarely spoken about his career in the Mossad.

He once said of his work: "I changed names, passports and identities. In various places, I would go armed."

The Haaretz report said Mr. Shamir headed the special Mossad unit from 1955 to 1964. The unit carried out attack on perceived enemies and suspected Nazi war criminals. Haaretz reported Yossi Melman wrote, citing unidentified foreign sources.

Mr. Melman wrote that in February 1963, Mr. Shamir sent a squad on two unsuccessful attempts to assassinate Dr. Hans Kleinwachter, a German scientist suspected of helping Egypt develop missiles.

In September 1962, another German scientist working for the Egyptians, Dr. Heinz Krug, disappeared under mysterious circumstances. "The suspicion was

raised that he was killed by Mossad agents," Mr. Melman wrote. Mr. Melman told the Associated Press on Friday he did not know how many people were killed by the special unit.

He said the article was based on interviews with "many people" and was submitted to Israel's military censor.

Mr. Melman wrote that Mr. Shamir recruited to his squad several former members of the Stern gang, the ruthless Jewish underground report group that Mr. Shamir led in the fight against Britain in the 1940s.

"When Shamir was invited to his first meeting with (then-Mossad chief Isser) Harel, he thought the security forces wanted to question him on suspicion of underground activity against the government," the paper said.

Instead Harel recruited him to head the special operations team based in Paris, it said.

Mr. Shamir and his Stern gang colleagues were recruited, in part, because "they had a lot of experience in acts of murder, assassinations, planting bombs, threats and harassment," Mr. Melman wrote.

The gang carried out the 1944 assassination of Lord Moyne, Britain's resident Middle East minister, and was blamed for the 1948 slaying of U.N. mediator Count Folke Bernadotte.

Mr. Shamir ran the special Mossad unit from Tel Aviv but also operated in Europe, especially Paris, Haaretz said. Previous reports have described Mr. Shamir as the Mossad chief in Paris.

End of cold war said to cut Israeli military sales

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel Military Industries (IMI) lost \$239 million in 1991, its first year as a state-owned company, an IMI spokesman said on Thursday.

Sales were \$520 million in 1991 compared to \$670 million in 1990. Expected orders in 1991 were off \$150 million in part because of the end of the cold war.

"That reduced orders from Germany, for example," spokesman Avihai Ben Yaakov told Reuters.

Sales drops were concentrated in unguided ammunition and less sophisticated weapons systems. IMI will ask for about \$100 million in government aid for the coming year, he said.

Military analysts said sales may also have been hurt by U.S. press reports Washington was investigating alleged illegal Israeli transfers of American arms and know-how.

Many IMI products parts made or developed in the United States, and require U.S. permission for export.

One press report said a U.S.

government panel was considering blocking exports of IMI's latest-guided Matpatz anti-tank missile. The Matpatz was developed from the wire-guided U.S.-built Tow system.

IMI continues to export the Matpatz. The company says it has removed all U.S.-made or developed parts from the weapon.

Mr. Ben Yaakov said the loss also stemmed from writing off an inventory of unsaleable goods valued at \$84 million, and from \$35 million in compensation for fired weapons.

IMI has fired 2,000 workers as part of a cost-cutting programme, and plans to fire another 1,000 of its 8,900 workers.

The company's transition to civilian products is only beginning, Mr. Ben Yaakov said. Non-military sales were only five per cent of the 1991 total.

IMI, founded as a weapons and ammunition manufacturing arm of the Israeli defence ministry, was converted to a state company in November, 1990, to allow it to seek investment capital.

Israeli activists secure release of Iranian dissidents

TEL AVIV (AP) — They fled their homeland in Iran, fought for the Iraqi army, deserted and spent days hiding in the desert and finally snuck across to Israel, only to end up in jail.

But life for the 11 Iranian dissidents took a turn for the better on Friday, when they were freed after Israeli civil rights activists interceded on their behalf.

Deportation orders remain in force, but the men will be allowed to work on an Israeli collective farm until a Western country can be found to take them, Israeli lawyer Zvi Rish said in a telephone interview.

"We don't know of any similar case," said Mr. Rish, who handled the appeal for the Association for Civil Rights in Israel. "We believe it will serve as a precedent if there are others."

Some of the Iranians had been in jail for more than 15 months, he said.

Prison authorities said that one Iranian remains in custody by choice, awaiting word he hopes will come in the next week about asylum in Holland.

The strange saga began in Iran, where the men say their opposition to the regime of the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini led them to join rebel movements.

One of them told the Jerusalem Post earlier this year in a prison interview that he had watched Iranian secret police torture his fiancée to death.

"First they shot her in the ankles, then in the knees and back," said the man, identified only as Ali.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Les Tortues Ninja
18:25 Documentary
18:30 La Gymnastique
19:00 News in French
19:15 E-M6
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Super Bloopers
21:00 Ensommer
22:00 News in English
22:30 Naked under Caption

PRAYER TIMES

6:54 Fajr
12:24 (Sunrise) Dhuha
12:39 Dhuhr
16:28 'Asr
18:28 Maghrib
21:28 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedfish, Tel. 817440
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 64590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 67440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrence Church Tel. 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
St. Epiphanius Church Tel. 771757
Assyrian International Church Tel. 683326
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811255
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 623824, 654932
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Normal summer weather will prevail and winds will be northerly to northeasterly. In Aqaba, winds will be moderate to strong and sea calm.

Min./Max. temp.

Amman 18 / 32
Aqaba 22 / 37
Deserts 16 / 34
Jordan Valley 20 / 36

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 30, Aqaba 35, Humidity readings:

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Amman 30 per cent, Aqaba 37 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMBULANCE
Dr. Sabah Tannous 898903
Dr. Abdul Qader Al Lala 696048
Dr. Mohammad Al Sawwa 752096
Dr. Abdul Wahab Awad 845070
Fire pharmacy 661912
Rafidain pharmacy 778336
Al Asma pharmacy 677033
Nairoudi pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shamsah pharmacy 637660

EMERGENCIES
Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896990
Public Security Department 63021
Hotel Complaints 625903
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 891467
Amman Municipality Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 610230
Central Amman Telephone Repairs 623101

Khaleel pharmacy 985417

Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electric Supply Authority 815615
Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 06-53200
Queen Alia Int'l Airport 06-53300

Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
Amal Hospital 674135
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)903540
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)987332
Al Hilam Modern Hospital (09)990990

IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555
Great Catholic Hospital (02)272725
Ibn Al-Nafis Hospital (02)971000
AGBAR:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813613/32
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn 644281/6
Albakh Maternity, J. Amn 644412
Jabal Amman Maternity 642662
Malik, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shamsiah 664171/4
Shamsiah Hospital 669121
University Hospital 840845
Al-Musader Hospital 6672279
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/77
Al-Ahli, Abdali 666164/6
Islamic, Al-Muhajir 77701/3
Al-Bashir, J. Amman 775111/26
Army, Marka 891611/15

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

6:00 Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ)
6:30 Damascus (RJ)
6:30 Dhahran (RJ)
6:30 Cairo (RJ)
6:30 Baghdad (RJ)
6:30 New Delhi (RJ)
6:30 Karachi, Dubai (RJ)
11:30 Colombo (RJ)
11:30 Beirut (RJ)
17:30 London (RJ)
19:00 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
19:00 Frankfurt, Vienna (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

6:30 Beirut (RJ)
6:30 Aqaba (RJ)
6:30 Vienna (RJ)
12:30 Brussels, London (RJ)
12:30 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
12:30 Rome, Madrid (RJ)
12:30 Geneva, Paris (RJ)
12:30 Frankfurt (RJ)
12:30 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
22:00 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

6:15 Beirut (RJ)
6:30 Aqaba (RJ)
6:30 Vienna (RJ)
12:30 Brussels, London (RJ)
12:30 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
12:30 Rome, Madrid (RJ)
12:30 Geneva, Paris (RJ)
12:30 Frankfurt (RJ)
12:30 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
22:00 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)5320-5, where it should always be verified.

6:55 Cyprus (CY)
6:55 Beirut (BE)
12:30 Damascus (SY)
22:30 Damascus, Paris (AF)

MARKET PRICES

Up/down price in \$/kg per kg

Apple (red) 100/60
Apricot 400/30
Banana 500/450
Banana (Mikammar) 550/450
Beet 550/450
Cabbage 90/30
Carrot 240/80
Cauliflower 130/60
Cucumber (large) 70/40
Cucumber (small) 130/60
Eggplant 240/30
Garlic 700/600
Lemon 600/550
Mango (large) 70/40
Mango (small) 130/60
Onion (dry) 130/60
Onion (green) 130/100
Orange 400/30
Parsley 750/400
Parsnips 350/450
Pine 540/480
Pepper (hot) 340/300
Pepper (sweet) 220/300
Pumpkin 300/250
Sweet melon 110/30
Tomato 60/30
Watermelon 60/30

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Pumpkin 300/250
Sweet melon 110/30
Tomato 60/30
Watermelon 60/30

Prince Hassan reviews Islamic relations with IDO president

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Thursday received the former Sudanese President Abdul Rahman Swaroudhab, who is also president of the Islamic Development Organisation (IDO). They reviewed current inter-Arab and Islamic relations.

They also discussed ways of unifying the Arab and Islamic ranks to counter challenges and dangers.

Prince Hassan and Field Marshal Swaroudhab discussed issues pertaining to the dispatch by the Hashemite Royal Charity (HRC) of relief supplies and aid to Somalia, and reviewed scopes of cooperation between the IDO and the HRC.

Field Marshal Swaroudhab voiced thanks and appreciation to King Hussein, Prince Hassan and the Jordanians for their support of the Sudanese. The meeting was attended by the HRC's secretary general, Abdul Salam Al Abbadi.

Also on Thursday, Prince Hassan received Allen Brunely, the president of the United States advisor for science and technology. They discussed scopes of cooperation in science and technology. The meeting was attended by the Secretary General of the Higher Council of Science and Technology and the Royal Scientific Society President.

Abu Jaber, Romanians review ties

AMMAN (Petra) — Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber and his Romanian counterpart Adrian Nastase on Thursday reviewed bilateral relations and means of developing them in the political, economic and cultural areas. The two officials also discussed the latest developments in the Middle East and Europe and a number of issues of mutual interest.

In another development, Dr. Abu Jaber and the Romanian minister of finance and industry signed an agreement on mutual investments. Dr. Abu Jaber also met with Romanian minister of trade and tourism and discussed with him means of enhancing trade exchange. Earlier on Thursday, Dr. Abu Jaber met with the speaker of the Romanian Senate and congress and was briefed on the political developments in their country. He briefed them on the most prominent features of Jordan's democratic reforms and reviewed with them the latest developments in the region.

Abu Jaber concluded Friday his visit to Romania and left for Cairo to attend a meeting of the Arab League Council due to start today. The meeting will discuss the situation in south Lebanon and continued Israeli violations of Lebanon's sovereignty.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Prince Hassan sends condolences to Algerian embassy

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Thursday called at the Algerian embassy where he offered his condolences over the assassination of the late president Mohamed Bouediar, who was the head of the High Council of State in Algeria.

Diplomatic ties with San Marino

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and San Marino Friday agreed to establish diplomatic relations at the non-resident ambassador's level.

WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Mohammad Al Jalou at Baladna Art Gallery.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings, Arab calligraphy, handicrafts and traditional costumes at the University of Jordan's Faculty of Education.

FILM

- ★ Film entitled "Returning to Haifa" at the Scientific and Cultural Centre of Abdel Hameed Shoman Foundation — 6:30 p.m.

King receives good wishes

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Friday received a cable from Syrian President Hafez Al Assad congratulating him on the New Hijri year and wishing him continued good health and happiness and the Jordanian people's further progress and prosperity.

On Thursday, the King received similar cables from a number of Arab and Muslim leaders congratulating him and the Jordanians on the occasion. The cables were sent by King Hassan II of Morocco, Sultan Qaboos Bin Said of Oman, Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, Palestinian President Yasser Arafat, President Mamoun Abdul Qayoum of the Maldives and Sheikh Hamad Bin Issa, the Crown Prince of Bahrain.

Also Thursday, the King received congratulatory cables from senior Jordanian officials and representatives of various associations. They voiced their heartfelt congratulations to King Hussein on this occasion and recalled his untiring efforts to unify Arab ranks and strengthen ties of Islam. They wished the King every success in leading the march of Jordan and achieving the national aspirations.

The cables were sent by Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, Speakers of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Amman Mayor, Chief Islamic Justice, Directors of the General Intelligence and Public Security and Civil Defence Departments.

The King also received a congratulatory cable from Maj. Gen. Naim Al Khatib, commander of the Palestine Liberation Army in Jordan.

JORDAN TIMES
TEL. 667171

THANKS AND APPRECIATION

to the U.S. Government
Al Balqa Tribes in general, and Al Hadid tribes in particular, extend their thanks and gratitude to the U.S. government for delegating U.S. Ambassador to Jordan Roger Harrison to offer condolences over the death of the late Deputy

Sheikh Nayef Minwir Al Hadid
May God keep U.S. leaders in good health and happiness.

Jordan celebrates International Cooperation Day to show support for local programmes

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan, along with other countries Saturday, celebrates International Cooperation Day.

For the occasion, Director General of Jordan Cooperative Organisation (JCO) Jamal Bdour said cooperation is a humanitarian project, advocated and encouraged by all faiths. He added that the cooperative movement in Jordan is characterised by their vast and rich experience, saying that it meets the ultimate goal which large sectors of the Jordanian people have called for and sought to achieve.

He pointed out that cooperative societies have worked hard to provide for the needs of citizens by establishing agricultural,

touristic and housing services as well as handicrafts. He noted that the cooperative movement in Jordan includes 568 cooperatives in all fields covering all parts of Jordan, including 229 agricultural cooperatives and 339 000 agricultural cooperatives.

He pointed out that 56,000 people are enlisted in these societies as full members. In agriculture, Mr. Bdour said that JCO provides components of agricultural production and implements a number of agricultural projects, some of which are carried out in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture. These projects are designed to encourage the use of modern technology in agricultural production.

Mr. Bdour also said there were 95 housing cooperatives, grouping 8,000 members.

On the cooperative organisation's contribution to the industrial sector, Mr. Bdour said cooperatives produce table salt, and dairy products from their factories in Azraq and Duleil.

He also noted the important role women play through the 32 women cooperative organisations. On the cooperative marketing, Mr. Bdour said the cooperative societies in Jordan produce 50 per cent of the market's needs of chicken, 90 per cent of the demands for eggs, 80 per cent of the country's needs of fresh milk and 90 per cent of the country's needs of table salt.

Archaeological sites to be snapped and mapped by aerial photography

By Laney Salisbury
Special to the Jordan Times

UMM AL JIMAL — If today's dawn is calm and the sky clear, a team of aerial archaeologists will begin to systematically map several of Jordan's ancient sites for the first time.

Wilson and Ellie Myers, from the American School for Classical Studies in Athens, arrived in Jordan last week to photograph by blimp the time-worn settlements of Umm Al Jimal, Petra, Humeima and Madaba plains.

The couple needs a dead wind day and bright, low-angled sunlight to launch their 33 metre, four-finned blimp to shoot clear pictures. The blimp, tethered to a rope, will float about half a mile above the black-streaked ruins where Romans, Arabs and Druze once thrived. The camera will shoot pictures by remote control.

Aerial archaeology helps archaeologists understand and reconstruct sites. Photographs can give detailed pictures of walls and foundations, and help discover patterns to what seem like randomly strewn stones of sites. They also show marks or continuities that can be overlooked by the human eye.

On tour of Umm Al Jimal with the Friends of Archaeology, archaeologist Bert De

Vries told the Jordan Times on Friday that he hopes the photographs will help him find a pattern in the masonry of one of the earlier villages of Umm Al Jimal, east of the barracks. De Vries has been working periodically on the site since 1972 and said that the aerial mapping would help in planning strategies for more excavations next year.

The aerial archaeologists were invited by the Department of Antiquities and Archaeologists in Jordan for "the pilot project." The Myers, who have been working in Greece for 20-years, said that if they are invited back they would like to photograph an aerial atlas of Jordan, as they have done of ancient Crete. According to the American Centre of Oriental Research (ACO), the Myers may also photograph at least two other undisclosed sites in the

country. Aerial archaeology by blimp was developed in the early 1930's by the University of Chicago of Oriental Studies and first used at Megiddo in Palestine, according to Mr. Myers. Then, however, the cameras did not have automatic film advance.

"We have an advantage," Mr. Myers said, adjusting the pair of motor-drive cameras in the cradle of the blimp.

Mapping each site will cost about \$2,000 a week, including transport, food and hydrogen, and the Myers said they expect to finish next month.

That's if they ever get off the ground.

For the past few days the Myers have been waiting for clear weather. As to when that could happen given this year's odd climate, Mr. Myers shrugged and said, "It's like sailing. It's just unpredictable."

Sulaiman Qudah elected president of the Jordan Press Association

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Veteran journalist Sulaiman Qudah Friday became the president of the Jordan Press Association after narrowly defeating his main contender, columnist Mohammad Daudiah.

The 47-year-old assistant editor in chief of Al Rai daily edged out Mr. Daudiah by four votes in a second round of balloting after an indecisive first race among four candidates including Bader Abdul Haq, a columnist and short writer, and Ahmad Alawi, Editor in Chief of the weekly Akhbar Al Usbon.

In the first round, Mr. Qudah received 66 votes, Mr. Daudiah, 44 votes, Mr. Abdul Haq, 22 votes, and Mr. Alawi came out last with 8 votes. There were four white

ballots. Both Mr. Abdul Haq and Mr. Alawi dropped out of the race after the first results were announced to allow for a second round between the two main contenders. In the final count, Mr. Qudah received 69 votes and Mr. Daudiah obtained 65 votes out of the 139 ballots cast. Five white ballot cards were presented in the second round.

Upon the announcement of his victory, the Arab nationalist, Mr. Qudah, pledged to strengthen the role of the Press Association in the democratic process and public life. The 231-member union has been weighed down by financial problems and internal bickering which led to the resignation of its former executive committee under pressure from general assembly. 120 journalists signed a

petition last month demanding the resignation of former president Hashem Khreissat.

The new committee is expected to try to widen its membership among journalists in the country, who are estimated at 450 practicing journalists, but who have been unable to meet the association's membership requirements.

Mr. Qudah, born in the city of Salt in 1945, has a degree in economics and political science from the University of Jordan. He is married with six children.

The new executive committee, also elected Friday, includes Mohammad Dumah, Ziad Shuleb and Imad Qous as representative editors of the private sector. From the public sector Hamid Abbadi, Omar Abanda and Nayef Muhaisen also won seats on the committee.



Editor-in-Chief of Al Rai Mahmoud Al Kayed congratulating Sulaiman Qudah for winning the presidency of the Jordan Press Association

وزارة الاشغال العامة والاسكان
دائرة العطاءات الحكومية
MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS & HOUSING
GOVERNMENT TENDERS DIRECTORATE

Invitation for Tender (92/92)

Importing and Installing Artificial Grass Surfaces at King Hussein Sport City Football (soccer) Field

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2. Prequalification will be done for companies wanting to submit for the tender.
3. Offers are to include technical and financial proposal and financial proposal will not be opened for companies which have not been prequalified.
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5. Last date for selling tender documents is 26/7/1992.
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Model needs to be polished

AS THE United States of America celebrates its 216th anniversary of independence, President Bush has told the American people that the U.S. stood "as a model to all those people who aspire to systems of representative democracy and free enterprise."

Many people might disagree with the president and point to other models of political systems that appear more representative, safe and just. Others might even look at the president's statement with scorn, pointing at the U.S.' social and racial ills that plague the American society.

However, no matter how good or bad the American system is, the fact that Americans are still very loyal to the founding father's pledge "that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness," is an enjoyable and hopeful thought. Not only does that pledge offer hope for America's underdog, it also reassures other peoples of the goodwill of the American people that constantly draws from the declaration of independence and the American constitution.

While the West advocates democracy and while the nations of Eastern Europe and the Third World rush towards representative government, Liberty, the most sacred of human values, is being sacrificed at the altar of Western national interest and in the palaces of despotic rulers. No one could have described the basic rights of people as did America's founding fathers: Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. It is sad to note that in some Western-supported regimes, especially in the Middle East, these values are abused time and time again with little fuss from the U.S. or the U.S. State Department. In the post-Soviet Union, and in a world dominated by a single superpower in alliance with the nations of the so-called free world, the U.S. should very easily find a big world audience for its ideals. But that will not be easy. Unless the U.S. sacrifices its narrow immediate interests for the propagation of its great ideals, the world will not listen.

For the U.S. to convince the world that it is the "greatest" nation on Earth — as President Bush told his troops on the eve of the Gulf war — and for it to propagate the ideals and visions of the founding fathers, a great deal of effort is needed both at home and abroad. No one could deny that, thanks to the U.S. constitution, the U.S. is a dynamic nation that has managed through its dynamism to lead the world. What remains to be seen is whether world nations will accept this leadership or not. For unless the ideals that have made the U.S. supreme are applied worldwide, it is doubtful that all nations will accept America's leadership.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

SO far Yitzhak Rabin, winner of the Israeli elections, has showed no sign that he is willing to abandon the settlement programmes in the occupied Arab territories and indeed he has already showed indications of his determination to pursue the settlement plans in the Jerusalem, the Jordan Valley as well as the Syrian Golan Heights, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily Friday. Rabin has done so under the excuse that the settlements provide security for Israel, added the daily. It should be emphasised that Rabin's pledge during the election campaign to halt settlement programmes for one year can by no means remove the obstacles impeding the peace process, simply because peace means end of settlements as a whole and not in part only, the paper pointed out. Rabin is called on to show clear inclination towards the attainment of peace by renouncing the settlement programmes going on in the occupied Arab lands, especially as the world community has repeatedly denounced these settlements as illegal practice, demanded the daily. Settlement of Jews on Arab lands can by no means provide security for Israel, but only through genuine peace can security for the whole region be guaranteed, the paper noted. The paper called on all parties concerned over the establishment of peace in the region to exert pressure on Rabin to abandon the settlement programmes so that the peace process can be given a chance to succeed. Only through peace, added the daily, can Israel's aspiration to security and stability in this troubled region be accomplished.

Although Jordan has accepted the sanctions imposed on Iraq and is totally committed to honour them, it can by no means accept sanctions to be imposed on it with no reason, said a columnist in Al Ra'i daily. Even though the sanctions on Iraq are no more justified, simply because Baghdad has honoured all U.N. Security Council resolutions, still Washington is intent on carrying out a genocide on the Iraqi people, trying by every possible means to starve the innocent population, noted Mahmoud Rimawi. Washington, the writer noted, has over the past few weeks tried by all means to pressure Jordan into accepting the stationing of U.N. inspectors on its territory to monitor the implementation of the sanctions on Iraq and in Aqaba to ensure that no goods can reach that Arab country. He said that Jordan has all the right to reject such request as a sovereign state because such plan clearly encroaches on its rights and sovereignty and compromises its credibility. The United States had wanted not only to humiliate Jordan and clamp it, as well as Iraq, under an embargo but also to force Jordan to pay for such humiliation by footing the bill of the inspectors stay on its territory, noted the writer. The U.S. administration is clearly trying to win George Bush an edge over his adversaries in the ongoing presidential election campaign, and Jordan was chosen as a means to show that the administration was capable of stifling the spirit of resistance in Iraq, added the writer.

The new world feudal order

Erskine Childers

At the Security Council "summit" last January, Third World leaders were as frank as they dared to be. But they were not blunt enough to puncture the false impression of a "council in unity", as President Bush called it, among many honeyed Western words. Zimbabwe's Foreign Minister Shamuyarira urged that "future collective enforcement actions should be truly representative". Zimbabwe had very reluctantly been compelled to vote for the first council resolution warning Libya, to assure \$430 million of desperately needed International Monetary Fund credits.

Tiny Cape Verde bravely warned that "The moral authority of the council is bound to suffer whenever a decision is taken without exhaustive efforts to achieve a consensus". And India, whose fear of not getting IMF credits to pay its oil bills had compelled it to vote for the deeply disliked 1991 Gulf ceasefire resolution, said that council members should "insist on consensus, scrupulously avoiding the temptation to dictate for quick results."

No one, of course, dares to say openly who is "dictating", or how. An atmosphere of intimidation unparalleled in its history now pervades the halls of a U.N. whose Charter opens with affirmation of the "equal rights of nations large and small."

Most of the Third World is economically prostrate. A new UNDP report notes that between 1983 and 1989, with its interest rates averaging 17 per cent to the North's 4 per cent, the Third World had to make transfers to the North of \$242 billion. Their exports constantly blocked by Northern protectionist barriers, 80 per cent of humankind now have only 18 per cent of world trade. The number of people in absolute poverty has increased from 800 million to 1.2 billion. And no longer frustrated by a Soviet bloc's defence of Third World positions, the Western powers now exploit this deep poverty to extort whatever votes they need for their "New World Order."

In the Gulf crisis, Security Council votes and war support were bought with huge cash transfers (like \$2.2 billion for Syria), or debt relief, of which Egypt got \$25 billion. But when Yemen voted against the force-authorising resolution a senior U.S. diplomat told its ambassador, "That was the most expensive No vote you ever made". It was — in \$70 million of aid cut, and \$1 billion lost when Saudi Arabia vindictively expelled 800,000 Yemeni remittance workers overnight. Some council members at the time had long been under Western control but still, Zaire's ambassador let slip that he was warned not to let any "negative" voting happen while he chaired the council.

At the 1991 General Assembly, the majority to rescind a resolution describing Zionism as a form of racism was obtained by the same intimidation, combined with the acquiescence of aid-hungry Eastern Europe. In the recent Security Council voting on sanctions against Libya, five Third World countries found the courage at least to abstain; but the resolution passed because China refrained from using its veto after warnings about its bid for favoured-nation trade status with the United States.

Such blackmail was never foreseen in 1945. The smaller countries involved in drafting the U.N. Charter knew, of course, that they must counter the power of the permanent members. They insisted on "the principle of the sovereign equality of all its members" (Article 2.1). They even got the San Francisco Conference to define such equality — explicitly including "respect" for each state's "political independence". They knew that the West was going to maintain the imperial economic system, strengthened by the new Western-controlled IMF and World Bank. But since no one was then predicting decolonisation even by the end of the century, no one envisaged Third World U.N. members rendered so economically fragile that their votes could

be bullied or bought by the rich.

The primary danger was seen as military intimidation of weak countries. The smaller countries therefore emphasised physically protecting national sovereignty, with detailed steps for peaceful redress of military threats in Chapter VI. Enforcement measures were to be only upon an imminent or actual breach of peace or an aggression, beginning with and demonstrably exhausting sanctions before use of armed force. Such force, if authorised under Chapter VII, was to be fully directed by the U.N. itself.

Ironically, their impoverishment of the Third World now enables the powers to over-ride each and every one of these carefully drafted foundations of a democratic United Nations.

The regime of economic threat destroys sovereign equality, and "respect for political independence". And as over Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, all opportunities for diplomacy under Chapter VI can be blocked or ignored, with threats and bribes used to engineer a vote to crash through sanctions into unaccountable, vigilante force.

This insidious abuse of the Charter has now been taken one dangerous stage further over Libya. The captive council has been made to ignore peaceful redress under Chapter VI even when a state is performing its obligations under a treaty; even when — as laid down in Article 36.2 — it has taken a dispute to the World Court, the U.N.'s principal judicial organ. The role of the World Court is thus now also jeopardised.

Cambridge University law professor Marc Weller recently wrote in *The European* that some Judges were "privately enraged" by this use of the Security Council. "For in this instance, the mechanism designed to combat actual acts of aggression has been transformed into a machinery for ad hoc law-making to further interests of individual states, and prejudice the decisions of the Court."

The whole original concept of a council with a rotating non-permanent majority was that even if the powers had their vetoes against something, they had to carry the majority for an action; and the majority would be an independent, restraining reflection of the UN membership as a whole. With utmost cynicism, the leaders of the world's self-claimed greatest democracies have instituted tyranny over that majority, by threat to the lives of its peoples.

It used to be an honour for a small country to be elected to the Security Council. Instead, it has become positively dangerous to a country's economic survival to serve on the council at all. Already, at least one Third World country has withdrawn from nomination rather than face the bullying.

The mendacious claim by Western leaders that their demands at the UN get "the support of the whole international community" recalls the days of Europe's feudal barons. They, too, would warn their serfs to behave, to accept conscription into the baron's new war, or be deprived of seeds, medicaments, the very means of livelihood. And the serfs knew the local IMF could be told not to lend to anyone displacing the baron.

But the rich lords always claimed in royal councils that the peasants were loyal and contented.

And then, one day, the peasants revolted.

Postscript: *New York Times* from Rio de Janeiro on 8 June 1992: "Last week, three European countries — Austria, Switzerland and the Netherlands — started an initiative to commit signers to stabilise emissions immediately... Fighting back, the United States sent a 'threatening letter' to the Austrian government in Vienna last week, according to one Austrian delegate here..."

THE WEEK IN PRINT

Jordan will never compromise sovereignty

Reviewed by Elia Nasrallah

PRESSURE on Jordan from external sources concerning the U.N. imposed sanctions on Iraq, the assassination of the Algerian president and Rabin's future government in Israel were among the main topics tackled by the local newspapers in the past week.

Al Ra'i Arabic daily called unjust and evil the ongoing campaign on Jordan and the pressure exercised by the U.S. administration to force this country to accept the stationing of U.N. inspectors on its territory. The paper's political affairs editor said that Jordan was strictly abiding by the U.N. sanctions rules and committed to honouring all U.N. resolutions, but the Kingdom cannot accept any compromising of its sovereignty and credibility. The writer attacked foreign and certain Arab media which he said have been launching a hostile campaign against this steadfast country with the purpose of destabilising its security and stirring trouble in the region.

Under the title: Jordan will not succumb to blackmail, a columnist in Sawt Al Shaab daily said that the Americans were not satisfied with searching Aqaba-bound vessels and causing delay in the arrival of goods to the Jordanian people, but they were now exercising economic and political pressure on Jordan in a bid to appease their Saudi and Kuwaiti friends who have been accusing Jordan of violating the sanctions against Iraq. Salameh Ekour said that Jordan had over the years, built up credibility which it could not compromise and will not accept any pressure or blackmail.

A columnist in Al Dostour said that the pressure on Jordan was part of a campaign to force the country to give up its democratic march which is anti dictatorship practiced in certain Arab countries. Mohammad Daoudieh said that certain oil Arab states backed by the enemies of the Arab Nation were behind the campaign on Jordan to force the country to kneel before the pressure and accept Zionist rules.

His colleague in Al Dostour Saleh Qallab said that Jordan refused to serve as a tool in the ongoing conspiracy against Iraq because the Kingdom did

not interfere in other countries affairs and sought only to maintain good relations with all Arab countries on the basis of mutual respect. Jordan, said the writer, refuses to accept U.N. inspectors to be stationed on its territory since such practice would no doubt encroach on the country's sovereignty. Sawt Al Shaab daily said that the pressure on Jordan is a clear indication of the U.S.-Gulf conspiracy against this steadfast country which is trying hard to improve inter-Arab relations but is being rewarded with more manifestations of malice and hatred. The paper said that Jordan was exposed to pressure simply because it continued to adhere to its national stand of rejecting the presence of foreign forces on Arab lands and because of its belief that Arab issues should be settled by Arab countries alone.

In the light of the pressure on Jordan and the continued media campaigns launched by Gulf states on the country Fahd Al Fanek, a columnist in Al Ra'i, said that Jordan's ties with the Gulf states have never been worse than they are now. He said that Jordan's call for an Arab solution to the Gulf question had aroused the anger of the other countries. Nevertheless, said the writer Jordan is duty bound to pursue efforts to improve relations with the Gulf states in order to safeguard its commercial interests and to protect the interests of the Jordanian and Palestinian expatriates living and working in the other Arab states.

Violence and assassinations can by no means end the dispute and the conflict in Algeria, said Sawt Al Shaab daily in discussing the situation in the north African Arab state. No one condones the acts of violence and Jordan in particular supports dialogue and democracy to solve all problems. Only through negotiation and not confrontation can Algeria find its way to security and peace, the paper said.

A columnist in Al Dostour said that observers had forecast some bloody action in Algeria simply because democracy was not allowed to take its course and because the country continues to be ruled by the one-party regime. Mohammad Kawash said that

as we entered the 21st century the whole world was changing around us and there could be no alternative to adopting pluralism, freedom and democracy which were denied to many Arab countries.

Salameh Ekour from Sawt Al Shaab said that the Algerian leader had committed a grave blunder by allowing all political groups except the Islamists to exercise all forms of activities in the country. The writer said that the creation of an anti-democratic atmosphere was rejected by any people and the arrest of the leaders of the Islamists proved to be a fatal blow to Bouafif.

The death of Bouafif and the violence witnessed in Algeria should give a lesson to the Palestinians, said Mazen Hammad in Al Dostour daily. The writer said that it should be understood that Palestine was the land for all factions and communities and political parties and it is not a sole inheritance for Hamas or other groups. Only through national unity and dialogue and democracy can the Palestinians find their way to salvation after ridding themselves of occupation noted the writer.

A columnist in Al Ra'i attributed the current violence in Algeria to the difficult economic situation the country has been plagued with as a result of wrong policies over the past years. Tareq Masarweh said it was a pity to see the Algerians losing one of their veteran leaders who fell at a time when the country was embroiled in economic and political turmoil. But he noted that through democratic means and through sacrifice the Algerians could overcome the present difficulties.

Ziyad Abu Ghanimeh, one of the leaders of the Islamist movement in Jordan criticised the late Bouafif noting that he had tried to cancel the existence of the Islamist groups in Algeria despite his knowledge that they won a big victory in the parliamentary elections. The writer said in an article in Al Dostour that Bouafif had arrested thousands of Islamists, ignored the will of the Algerian people and chose to commit suicide. He noted that the Islamists were not the first party to trigger violence which finally cost Bouafif his life.

Bader Abdul Haq, a columnist in Al Ra'i turned his attention to the outcome of the Israeli elections and said that Rabin's claim that he was for peace was a manoeuvre which could fool no one. Indeed Rabin is following in the foot steps of his predecessor Yitzhak Shamir who has been leading the Jewish state's campaign against the Palestinians. But, the writer said, the coming weeks will clearly prove that Rabin is no better leader with regard to the Arab cause.

Sawt Al Shaab daily said Rabin and his Labour Party were facing a real test following their victory in the elections. The Arabs and the Palestinians have no reason to believe that Rabin will be any better than Shamir because he too refuses the idea of exchanging land for peace and does not accept the idea of a Palestinian state, said the daily.

The paper said that Rabin should realise that the ongoing Middle East peace process was based on the U.N. principles, Security Council resolutions and the understanding that international legitimacy be respected.

Abdul Rahim Omar, a columnist in Al Ra'i said that Rabin is only a voice of the world Zionism and could by no means pave the ground for real peace. The writer called for U.N. interference to ensure a withdrawal of Israeli forces, an end to settlement programmes and the termination of Israel's occupation of Palestinian land. Ahmad Dhuban, a columnist in Sawt Al Shaab, said that the press association in Jordan has been devoid of any political activity and it is time to involve it in such practice as part of the whole framework in Jordan's democracy. The press association, he said, should play its role and should make its voice heard in Jordan's society.

A columnist in Al Dostour said it takes a miracle to reform the Jordan Press Association in view of the many issues that are still outstanding. Mohammad Daoud said that the current situation in the region and the general situation in Jordan requires from the Press Association members to unify their ranks and choose a group that can really take charge of their interests.

LETTERS

Hopes for equal treatment

THE FOLLOWING letter was sent to the American Ambassador in Amman, Mr. Roger Harrison, by the Middle East Regional Office of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) on the occasion of the American Independence Day, which is celebrated on July 4.

To the Editor:

ON THIS Fourth of July, the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee Middle East Regional Office, in Amman would like to extend to the American people its congratulations on their Independence Day. On this occasion, we would like to express our hope that the principles of freedom and justice which the American people are guaranteed are applied fairly and equally to the people of the world who are deprived of these most basic human rights.

In celebrating Independence Day, American-Arabs around the world would like to see the U.S. government continue sincerely its most recent efforts to ensure a just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

Nidal Sukhtian,
ADC, President,
M.E. Regional Office

Citizens and other citizens

To the Editor:

I am a Jordanian citizen born and raised in Jordan. I also hold the American citizenship by naturalization. I am now residing in Jordan along with my family, wife and son, both American-born citizens.

On June 28, 1992, I went to the Saudi embassy in Jabal Amman to enquire about a Omra visa. I presented the Saudi staff person in charge of visas with my American passport. I stated my reason of business there, which was to obtain a visa for Omra (little haj). He looked at me and said, "I can see that you were born in Jordan." I answered him, "Does that make a difference?" He replied, "we don't give visas to Jordanians. Come back after two months." I told him, "I am presenting you my American passport." He abusively stated that as far as he was concerned, I am a Jordanian and no visa would be granted.

I then contacted the American embassy in Amman and I discussed the incident with them, trying to make sense of the affair. I was told that they cannot interfere with the Saudi rules and/or handling the granting of a visa, but the case to me now is that the Saudis do not recognize my American passport — they only notice the place of birth without any consideration to American citizenship.

I was turned over to the foreign relations representative at the American embassy. He told me the American embassy had an increased amount of complaints against the Saudi embassy's treatment of other non-Saudi Arabs. He also mentioned the reason being because Jordan-Saudi relations are at the lowest at this time. The American embassy cannot interfere on behalf of individual Americans, he said. My point is that Saudi Arabia is pressuring Jordan to the point where they refuse to grant an Omra visa to an American citizen simply because he was born in Jordan. The point is also that the American embassy refused to defend its own citizens because it happened to have been born in Jordan. My question to the American embassy and the Saudis is "would I be treated the same had I been born in the U.S. holding an Anglo Saxon name?" I seriously doubt that that incident ever would have occurred. I am so certain of this point because of previous similar encounters in America over the years. This leads to a definite, obvious conclusion that there are first-class citizens in the U.S.; those who are American-born, who are treated completely differently from those who are naturalised American citizens, those who are born outside the U.S. said will infinitely continue to be treated as foreigners.

Adnan A. Abu Ali
Amman.

Theocracy vs democracy

To the Editor:

WITH reference to Randa Habib's corner (Jordan Times dated May, 30, 1992) about the declaration of an Islamist deputy to the effect that democracy for the Islamists is only a means to attain power and the letter of June 7, 1992 by Imad Awadallah Hussein in reply to Randa Habib's corner's comment, may I make the following comments.

In effect all religions are inherently autocratic in the application of their precepts and principles. If Judaism was to rule a society it would for example compel people not to work on Saturdays, not even to light a candle or telephone somebody, prohibit rearing pigs and eating pork etc etc. If Christianity, particularly Catholicism, were to govern a society it would for example ban divorce force people to pray on Sundays in the church, prohibit people from eating meat on Fridays and end the sale of condoms etc etc. If Islam were to come to power, it would force people to go and pray in mosques on Fridays, it would impose the sharia dress on all women, apply the Islamic houndout (punishments) on all contraveners of Sharia laws, prohibit bank interests, and close all liquor shops etc etc.

If what is succinctly described above is not autocratic in nature, what else can be? This is why perhaps democracy and theocracy are incompatible. It is true that theocracy may allow you to state your opinion, but it will not deviate from its strict application of its religious principles and precepts which you are forced to comply with, whether you like it or not.

The Arab people at this age and time do not need religious autocracy but secular free society, within the bounds of morality, to enable them to emulate genuine modern science and civilisation so as to bloom and prosper and thus face the challenges of the day.

P.K.
(Name withheld upon request)
Amman.

Let there be light

To the Editor:

The re-rose city of Petra, which attracts tourists from all over the world, is still living in the dark ages. Visitors to this unique touristic and historical site have no problem wandering about during daytime admiring the fascinating Arab Nabatean civilisation. But when dark falls, if they happen to have been caught still admiring the ruins, they cannot find their way back due to the lack of electric power.

Many visitors have fallen victim to the lack of a lighting system and their ignorance of the fact that this place has no electricity. Therefore, it is hoped that the Ministry of Tourism and the parties concerned with promoting tourism to this beautiful area, will work on linking this city to the electric grid.

Mohammad Jibril Al Nawafleh
Wadi Musa.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

طراز احمد الناصري

Labour begins coalition talks

(Continued from page 1)

so as not to incriminate Israelis meeting with Palestinians in good faith and with the intention of advancing the peace process and understanding between the two nations.

The government would not establish new settlements and existing settlements would not be expanded. United the final status of the settlements is determined in the framework of a final agreement on the territories, their inhabitants would be provided with security and vital services.

The ministerial committee on settlement in the territories would be abolished.

The government would abolish the privileged status of the settlements compared with other settlements in Israel, especially development towns.

All budget items dealing with settlements would appear in the budgets of the various ministries, which would explicitly detail their use.

Non-governmental investments in the settlements would be authorised by the government.

As long as the government continues to control the West Bank and Gaza, it would scrupulously observe the laws of the country and international law. The government would impose law and order without resorting to collective punishment, administrative detention without right of appeal, demolition of houses, and expulsions.

Meretz has also demanded the right to express itself freely in public on several issues. These include:

Recognition of Palestinian self-determination.

Readiness to respect the decision of the Palestinian people in favour of a federative or confederative association with Jordan or a demilitarised, indepen-

dent Palestinian state.

Willingness not to rule out the possibility of PLO participation in the coming stages of the negotiations, after the PLO proves in its declarations, and especially its actions, that it recognises Israel and stops terrorism.

Mr. Sarid said the principle of freedom of expression by coalition members on matters that are unacceptable to the government as a whole had been frequently exercised in the past.

Envoys meet Palestinians

Fifteen ambassadors have met with Palestinian leaders to discuss the Israeli election results and Palestinian expectations for the next round of Middle East peace talks.

The meeting came Tuesday, a day after 17 Palestinian peace negotiators returned from Jordan and were questioned by Israeli police for allegedly meeting with Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat.

The ambassadors who met with the six Palestinians headed by the delegation's chief adviser Faisal Husseini, came from Tel Aviv where their embassies are located. Eight consuls from Jerusalem were also present at the meeting, held at an East Jerusalem hotel.

Ziad Abu Ziad, also an adviser to the Palestinian delegation, said they briefed the diplomats on their visit to Jordan and discuss the recent developments in Israel.

"We spoke of the role the new Israeli government is going to play in the peace process," Mr. Abu Ziad said, adding they also discussed Palestinian expectations and demands for the next round of peace talks.

Jordan rejects reports of new call

(Continued from page 1)

"We continue to discuss with Jordan and its top leadership ways in which we can help them carry out their commitment to effective enforcement of the sanctions," Mr. Baker told a White House press conference.

"I cannot get into the specifics of what those ways might be," he added.

Amid a host of media reports suggesting continued flow of "critical items" to Iraq through Jordan in violation of the embargo, Jordanian officials have also affirmed that the Kingdom has moved to plug all possible loopholes that allow cross-border smuggling.

At the same time, officials reiterate that the stepped up measures do not amount to accepting the allegations, which they point out, have not been supporting by facts and figures.

"Let them give us complete details of what sanctions-busting goods have entered Iraq through Jordan and who have been doing

it, with dates and places," said one official. "We are not going to be dazed by half-cooked ideas and media reports."

Shipping as well as cargo-clearing agents confirm that inspection procedures of Iraq-bound cargo arriving in Jordan have been "tightened," but the thrust of the effort is along the long border rather than the formal crossing point itself.

The New York Times reported Wednesday that the U.S. administration was considering a proposal to deploy U.N. inspectors within Iraqi territory to check incoming cargo following Amman's rejection of inspection teams in Jordanian territory.

Jordanian official declined comment on the issue saying it was a matter for the U.N. and others to discuss. But officials have said earlier that if the issue was indeed deployment of U.N. inspectors why not send them to the Iraqi side of the border rather than the Jordanian side.

Israeli troops kill Palestinian

(Continued from page 1)

The prisoner release, which the army said occurred "during the past few weeks," had been kept secret.

The army statement said the Palestinians had been tried in Israel and had completed prison terms for unspecified crimes.

In the past Israel has released Palestinian prisoners to gain freedom for Israeli soldiers, but the army said the latest release had nothing to do with four Israeli soldiers missing in Lebanon.

The last prisoner release made public by Israel occurred in March 1991, when 12 were released.

The Hebrew daily Haaretz reported that Israel was believed to be holding 40 foreigners who had completed prison terms. Israeli prison authorities said Friday that "there may be one or two" still in custody but gave no details.

Shin Bet 'probe'

The Israeli justice ministry will establish a special committee to investigate complaints about interrogations carried out by the Shin Bet secret police, a government minister said Friday.

The committee will be the first outside body authorised to investigate the Shin Bet, Israeli radio said.

Justice Minister Dan Meridor said the decision was made by a ministerial committee after va-

rious complaints against the service in recent years.

"We need to be convinced ... that when there is a complaint about one or another kind of interrogation, the investigation will be done ... by an outside body," Mr. Meridor told army radio.

He noted that since charges against Shin Bet often receive widespread publicity, Israel needs to know complaints against it are investigated properly.

Mr. Meridor said the committee would operate under the state attorney, but gave no other details.

The activities of Shin Bet, whose name is a Hebrew acronym for general security services, are usually kept hidden. Even the name of its director is an official secret.

Last February, the agency was investigated by police when a Palestinian prisoner, Mustafa Akawi, 36, died in a Shin Bet detention centre a day after complaining to an Israeli court that he had been tortured.

An autopsy determined Akawi died from a heart attack, and the internal police investigation found no wrongdoing by Shin Bet agents.

The Israeli human rights group B'tselem has said that five Palestinians died during Shin Bet interrogation since the uprising began. It has urged the creation of a public body to oversee the agency.

Work on Amman-Zarqa highway begins

ZARQA (Petra) — The Public Works Department in Zarqa governorate started Wednesday expanding and improving the Amman-Zarqa highway. Sources at the department said because of work procedures, one lane in certain parts of the road will be closed for traffic. The source asked citizens to be cautious and to abide by traffic signs and instructions.

Iraq dismisses putsch report

(Continued from page 1)

killed or wounded in that clash but the exact figures were not known, it said.

Victims of the explosion, it said, included the police chief who was injured, the statement said, without identifying him by name.

The Iraqi national congress emerged from a meeting in Vienna last month which tried to weld the widely divergent Iraqi rebel groups into a cohesive front against President Saddam.

The participants included leftist factions, former army officers and liberals. But the pro-Iran

Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SCIRI), the most popular party among Iraq's Shiite majority, boycotted the meeting.

The Shiites make up 55 per cent of Iraq's 17.5 million population. SCIRI advocates the establishment of an Islamic republic in Iraq, but most other factions oppose the idea.

Differences over the shape of government in a post-Saddam Iraq has slowed down the opposition's effort to find a unified strategy to overthrow him, despite widespread rioting that has rocked the country since the Gulf war last year.

FIS challenges Boudiaf successor

(Continued from page 1)

chief asset was not being tainted by the 30 years of corrupt, single-party rule. He tried to balance a crackdown on fundamentalists with promises to restore democratic reforms.

Mr. Kafi appointment preserves the committee's civilian veneer, but real power is likely to continue to be held in the hands of Defence Minister Khaleel Nezzar.

Mr. Kafi is secretary general of the National Organisation of Martyrs' Families, veterans of the war for independence. It is widely viewed by Algerians, 75 per cent of whom were born after the war, as corrupt.

The state-owned Algerian Press Service has reported that the assassin in custody was a member of the security service

guarding the president. It did not identify him.

The Nation newspaper, citing sources close to the investigation, said that the killer was a follower of Ali Djeddi, a top chieftain of the FIS.

A senior Iranian clergyman hailed Friday the killing of Mr. Boudiaf and said Islamic fundamentalists were behind the move that "served the cause of Islam."

"Boudiaf's assassination made all the Algerian people happy. Not a single person became sad whereas the West was saddened." The Iranian news agency IRNA quoted the substitute Friday prayer leader of Tehran, Ahmad Jannati, as telling thousands of worshippers.



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Africans lose bid to change FIFA's balance of power

ZURICH (R) — African soccer, dejected at Morocco's defeat by France to host the 1998 World Cup, were snubbed again Friday when its bid to change the balance of power in FIFA was voted down.

A proposal by Egypt, Tunisia and Cameroon, to increase the number of members from soccer's junior confederations on FIFA's powerful Executive Committee which chooses World Cup hosts, won an overall majority but was well short of the three-quarters majority needed.

The three countries wanted an extra member from Africa, Asia and the North and Central American and Caribbean Confederations on the 21-man decision-making committee effectively controlled by European and South American members.

The changes would have the smaller confederations just two members less than the European and South American grouping, who are sometimes considered to act as a block vote.

But the International Football Federation's biennial congress, at

which every national association has one vote, voted 56 to 50 in favour, not a big enough majority to carry the motion.

A spokesman for the Cameroon Soccer Association, who supported Egypt's proposal, said they were naturally disappointed to have lost the motion but accepted FIFA's democratic process.

David Will, a senior Executive Committee member from Scotland, said the Africans were making a determined bid to try to change the balance of power, but thought it was a bad time to put the proposal because of the current political and geographic changes, particularly in Europe. He said with European confederation expanding rapidly since the break-up of the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia he thought most delegates did not want to consider altering FIFA's make-up until things had settled down.

"There is no doubt African soccer is getting stronger and that they feel they should have a greater voice. They don't expect things to change overnight, but

they will keep chipping away," he said.

S.Africa readmitted to FIFA

South Africa were readmitted to the International Football Federation (FIFA) Friday after an absence of 18 years.

FIFA's Congress welcomed South Africa back from their exile with a unanimous vote and a standing ovation.

Solomon Morewa, the secretary-general of the South African Football Association, said: "We are thrilled. This is a very emotional and exciting moment for us."

He then called on the South African government to end apartheid and ensure all South Africans are enfranchised.

South Africa were expelled from FIFA for their apartheid policies in 1976, but FIFA President Joao Havelange told members that after visiting the republic and meeting African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela this year he found everything in

perfect order and proposed the readmission.

FIFA's Executive Committee agreed earlier this week that if the congress readmitted South Africa they could take part in the 1994 World Cup beginning in October.

South Africa's return to international soccer will officially begin next week when they play Cameroon in three friendlies in Durban, Cape Town and Johannesburg on July 7, 9 and 11.

Mr. Morewa said the tour was only going ahead after Mandela personally intervened when Cameroon pulled out last week.

Mr. Morewa, clearly moved at his country's return to the football fold, said: "We are very thrilled today and I want to thank the Confederation of African Football, Dr. Mandela and the African National Congress for their support in making this happen."

South Africa was among 14 countries to be given membership of FIFA by the congress.

They included five new countries from the split-up of the former Soviet Union: Russia, Ukraine, Armenia, Belarus and Georgia, former Yugoslav states Croatia and Slovenia, and South Africa's neighbor and former territory Namibia.

The Cayman Islands, and St. Kitts and Nevis in the Caribbean were also affiliated.

The Baltic states of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, who were given provisional membership in December so they could be included in the European section of the 1994 World Cup qualifying, were also admitted, bringing FIFA membership to 178.

Seles receives threat

WIMBLEDON, England (AP) — A police bomb squad searched Monica Seles' Wimbledon residence after tournament officials received a written threat against the Yugoslav-born tennis star, authorities said Friday.

The threat, written in German, was received Thursday morning before she went on court to beat nine-time champion Martina Navratilova to reach Saturday's final.

"I would think she was upset, but it clearly didn't affect her tennis. It didn't stop her from winning," said Wimbledon spokeswoman Carol Brown.

Scotland Yard moved in to check out the claim that a bomb had been planted at the house in Wimbledon where the Florida-based player has been staying during the two-week tournament.

"We can confirm that the All England Club have reported to the police that they received a letter written in German containing a bomb threat to a player," a spokesman said.

Krabbe unlikely to compete at Barcelona Olympics

BONN (R) — German sprinter Katrin Krabbe, who was cleared of doping charges last weekend, will probably not compete at this month's Barcelona Olympics because of the stress of the recent doping saga, her manager said Friday.

Jos Hermens said Krabbe's training had suffered in the last five months as she waited for last Sunday's final decision by the International Amateur Athletics Federation (IAAF) arbitration panel not to impose a four-year ban for allegedly rigging dope samples.

Asked if Krabbe would take part in Barcelona, Hermens said: "In my opinion, it will probably not happen. You can't just say, 'right, the hearing's over, let's go and get back to normal.' It's difficult to get ready in just four weeks."

"She has had five hectic months with stress to add to the normal pressure. But that's just my opinion. I'm not sure yet. The final decision is up to her and her coach," Hermens told Reuters.

The German Athletics Federation (DLV) originally banned Krabbe and team mates Grit Brener and Silke Moeller in February after they had provided identical urine samples during a random test at a South African training camp the previous month.

Krabbe complained of a lack of motivation during training as well as nervous problems while she contested the case with her two fellow former East Germans.

"I'm not going to Barcelona to make a fool of myself," the tall, glamorous sprinter said Tuesday, adding she would make a final decision later in the week on her participation at the games which start on July 25.

Last month the German sprinter, who took the 100 and 200

metres titles at last year's Tokyo World Championships in 10.99 and 22.09 seconds respectively, lost her only 100 metres race of the season outdoors in a poor 11.70 seconds.

Officials at Krabbe's club in Neubrandenburg said a final press statement on her Olympic participation, which was originally expected Friday, was not likely before the weekend.

"They are having some tests and are going to talk about it tonight," Hermens added.

The IAAF panel's decision to allow Krabbe to run, which was based on a legal technicality that the DLV's constitution did not provide for random dope tests, has come under fire from one of her top rivals and some top German anti-doping campaigners.

The panel accepted after a hearing in London that Krabbe, Brener and Moeller had provided identical urine samples. They also accepted that the samples had not been tampered with by someone else on their way to Cologne's testing laboratory.

If Krabbe decides to run in Barcelona, she will face intense media attention.

American Gwen Torrence, who finished second behind Krabbe in both sprints in Tokyo, immediately vowed to crush the German in Barcelona because she believed she was not clean.

"Our goal is to kick her butt in Barcelona," Torrence said. "She is not a clean athlete. Something happened and she got off. She knows she can't compete with us without it (dope)."

German sports chiefs, embarrassed by the legal hiccup, surprised Krabbe with random dope tests during training at her club Thursday. Urine samples were taken before and after training to reduce the possibility of manipulation.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY JULY 4, 1992

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A triple Moon Trine, positive aspect day for you to strive for fulfillment in the days ahead. Listen to your hunches and follow them as closely and accurately as you can.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) This is the day for you to go after what you want with courage, character and persistence and in both conventional and progressive ways.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Now you see the best means by which you can quietly plan a campaign of action to gain the longings that mean the most to you.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You like to be active and to see many friends and acquaintances and this is your day to be just as gregarious as you wish and make new contacts.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Get out in the world of activity and achieve the various ambitions which impel you forward in civic, community or credit conditions.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Be open minded to changes now in whatever departments of your life that they arise or appeal to you and you can make big leaps forward.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Whatever you have in mind to do for your attachment should flow

easily and successfully and bring much more happiness to the both of you.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Contact brilliant and dynamic personalities and get them to go along with the public plans you have that can increase your standing in your community.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You have all kinds of ideas for enhancing the productivity of the activities in which you are most interested, so lose no time in doing them.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Just the right day for you to make appointments and engagements with chosen companions for the recreations and entertainments you all wish to enjoy.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Whatever you wish to do at your residence that can quickly be put in motion and last for sometime can be effectuated at this time.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You now are able to get your usual companions to see and understand better your vision and imaginative plans and get them to back them.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) A worthwhile idea where your practical ability or money are concerned now animates you so go after it in a positive, inspired fashion.

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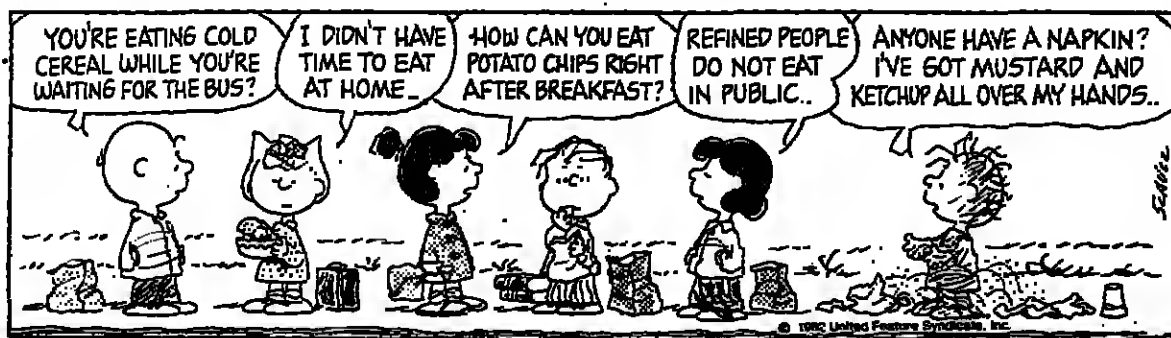
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GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
& TAMARA HIRSCH
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CHOOSE YOUR POISON

North-South vulnerable. West deals.

NORTH
♠ Q 6
♥ A J
♦ Q 7
♣ K 7 6 5 4 2

EAST
♠ K J 5 5
♥ K Q 8 8
♦ A J 9
♣ 8 3

SOUTH
♠ A 7 4 3
♥ 10 7 5 2
♦ 10 4 3
♣ K 7

The bidding:
1♥ 2♠ Pass 3♥ Pass 3NT

Opening lead: King of ♠

There's a saying from the Old Country: If you drink the water you die, and if you don't drink the water you die. South found out exactly what it meant on this hand from the Middle East Championship.

The report carries no action, so we don't know how South managed to become declarer at three no trump after West opened one heart. We can only presume some miracle such as the one above, where South

signified an initial overbid with another extremely aggressive action.

Had West forced a diamond opening lead, matters would have settled very quickly. But no blame attaches to West's actual choice of the king of hearts. Declarer took the ace in dummy, led a club to the king and continued the suit to the jack and ace, setting up the suit.

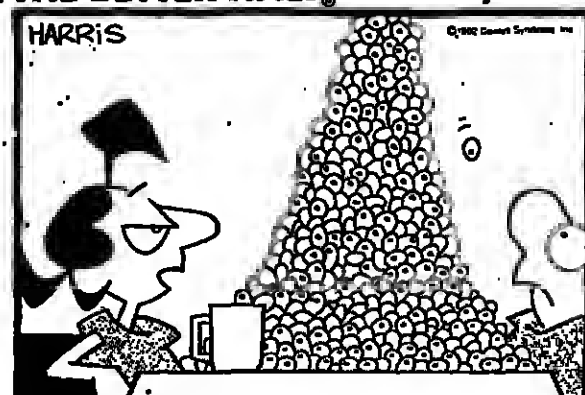
East got the defenders back into the game by shifting to the ten of spades. Declarer played low and West was in with the king. The hand was at the crossroads.

West made no mistake. After cashing the queen of hearts for the defenders' third trick, West then exited with a spade, and declarer was trapped. South could leave the lead in dummy and two the clubs, but then would have to surrender the last two tricks to the defense by leading away from the king of diamonds. Alternatively, South could overtake in hand and lead a diamond toward the king in a desperate hope that West held no more spades. Since that was the only chance, the defense took the ace of diamonds and two more spade tricks for down six.

As they say in the Old Country...

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



"They say olives make you passionate. Now shut up and eat your breakfast!"

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

VEDEL
□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

THOOB
□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

BRUPES
□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

HINGKT
□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

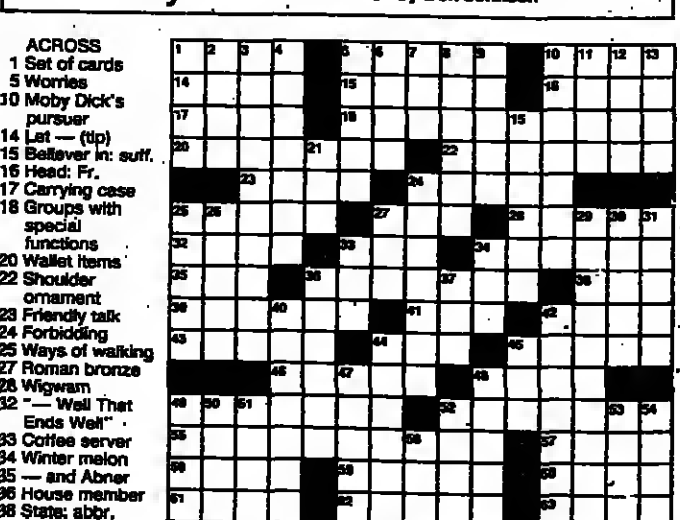
Answer: □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ THE □ □ □ □

Yesterday's Jumbles: GUILT TITLE CHOSEN SCORCH

Answer: Nowadays, the real hero in many a movie is the one who... SITS THROUGH IT

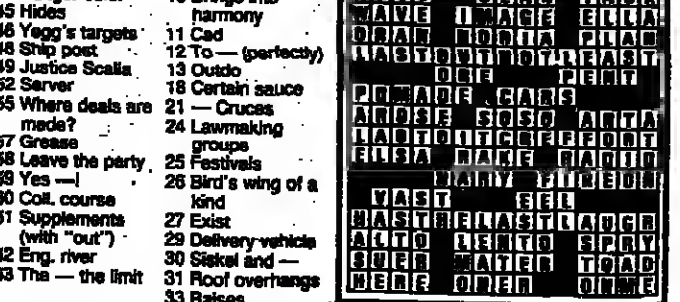
THE Daily Crossword

by Don Johnson



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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:



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ACROSS
1 Set of cards
5 Worries
10 Moby Dick's purpose
14 Let — (tip)
15 Bellerose in: suff.
16 Head: Fr.
17 Carrying case
18 Groups with special functions
20 Wallet items
22 Shoulder ornament
23 Friendly talk
24 Forbidding
25 Ways of walking
27 Roman bronze
28 Whigwar
32 — West That Ends Well
33 Coffee server
34 Winter ration
35 — and Abner
36 House member
38 State: abbr.
39 Wrens
41 Blind
42 Withered
43 More rational
44 Danger color
45 Hides
46 Yegg's targets
48 Ship post
49 Justice Scalia
50 Server
55 Where deals are made?
57 Greens
58 Leave the party
59 Yes —
60 Coil, course
61 Supplements (with "out")
62 Eng. river
63 The — the limit

DOWN
1 Bakery offering
2 Opposed
3 City employees
4 Chess pieces
5 Gem surface
6 Gout
7 Gout
8 Clone members
9 Marsh bird
10 Brings into harmony
11 Cad
12 To — (perfectly)
13 Outdo
14 Certain sauce
21 — Crucis
24 Lawmaking groups
25 Festivals
26 Bird's wing of a kind
27 Exist
29 Delivery vehicle
30 Skatel and —
31 Roof overhang
33 Rattles
34 Passing grade
35 Maroon
37 Young chap
40 Spas
42 Celms down
44 Fr. painter
45 — meter
47 In the lead
48 Assail
49 Fr. priest
50 Aloose
51 Yarn
52 Gov. agents
53 "It's —"
54 Harkers
56 Mice output

OECD warns of growing strains in eastern Europe

PARIS (R) — A sharp fall in production is creating economic strains in eastern Europe and testing the will of governments to stick to the path of reform, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) has said.

In its semi-annual economic outlook, it said far-reaching reforms were continuing and even accelerating in some areas such as the development of the private sector. But the initial lurch from communism to capitalism was taking its toll.

Combined output in Poland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Romania and Bulgaria slumped by 13 per cent last year and was likely to shrink another four per cent this year, the think-tank said.

The sharp fall had led to rising budget deficits and higher unemployment, which the OECD said had put pressure on the political resolve in all countries in the region to press ahead with economic belt-tightening.

"Strains and difficulties in the reform process are becoming evident, in particular as regards the achievement of sustained macro economic stabilisation," it said.

Part of the problem was that the full range of institutions needed to establish a market economy were not yet in place.

After decades of communism, people's behaviour had also not changed completely.

The OECD said tensions were most visible in Poland, where rising joblessness and public discontent had put pressure on the government to emphasise "economic recovery" as its main aim. Similar strains could be seen in

Bulgaria and Romania and, to a lesser extent, in Czechoslovakia.

"Even in Hungary, which started the cautious transformation of its economy long ago and is more used to working with the institutions of a market economy, severe problems of budgetary control have emerged in 1992," the report said.

The OECD, like the Bank for International Settlements — the central banks' own central bank — recently recommended urgent reform of tax systems so that governments rely less on revenues from state firms and more on broadly based consumption taxes.

"But reforms of taxes and tax administration has turned out to be a slow process, and meanwhile serious budgetary strains have become apparent," it said.

Without a firm grip on the budget, it will be impossible to maintain stable monetary conditions, the OECD warned.

The difficulty in exercising monetary control is increased by the continued existence of heavily indebted state firms.

In the absence of a real threat of bankruptcy, these financially weak firms are still soaking up large amounts of credit from banks that continue to lend because they expect the enterprises to be bailed out.

"In these conditions, a tightening of monetary policy mainly results in a reduction of credit to smaller enterprises and the private sector — the very entities that in many cases would make the most effective use of credit," the OECD added.

British business failures total 30,722 in six months

LONDON (R) — The number of companies collapsing in recession-hit Britain is still climbing. Business information group Dun and Bradstreet (D.B.) said 15,841 companies went under in the second quarter of this year, 6.5 per cent more than in the three months.

Its quarterly survey showed the increase was mainly among small businesses.

In the first six months of 1992, total business failures were 30,722, a rise of 32.6 per cent on the same period last year.

D.B. marketing manager Philip Mellor said: "The rate of business failure is still continuing to increase and we see no signs of a let up in the collapse of small businesses. If this rate continues more than 60,000 businesses will fail in Britain this year."

Britain's Conservative government is grappling with the worst business recession since World War II.

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) has said that the British economy is likely to grow by only 0.4 per cent this year, much less than the 2.2 per cent expansion forecast six months ago, before recovering next year.

Its forecast is lower than a one per cent growth projection made by the British treasury in March and compares with a 2.2 per cent contraction in the economy in 1991.

The Paris-based think-tank

said the British economy would start to expand again in 1992 but any upturn would be slow and take time to gather momentum.

"A turning point in economic activity is foreseen towards mid-1992, reflecting a small rise in consumption, a recovery in export growth, higher public investment and lower inflation," the agency said in its half-yearly economic review.

Britain's economy has contracted for seven consecutive quarters, the longest recession since World War II.

The OECD forecasts that growth in gross domestic product (GDP) could accelerate to 2.6 per cent in 1993 but again this is slower than a treasury projection of three per cent annualised growth in the first half of next year.

It sounded a positive note on inflation, forecast to fall to 3.7 per cent in 1992 and 3.5 next year from 5.8 last year. The year-on-year inflation rate was 4.3 per cent in May.

But unemployment, which has risen for 25 months in a row to reach 2.72 million, is expected to spiral upwards, perhaps peaking close to three million in early 1993, in which case one in 10 of Britain's workforce would be on the dole.

The OECD said private-sector wage settlements were dropping rapidly to levels not seen since the 1960s, giving a boost to the country's international competi-

tiveness.

"... Consumer and business confidence have recovered somewhat since the election (in April). Survey data suggests that manufacturing output has stopped falling and a modest recovery in retail sales and new orders is under way," it said.

But it added: "High unemployment, the weak housing market and high debt levels will restrain the recovery for some time. Recovery in business investment is unlikely until late 1992. The overbuilt commercial property market may lag even further."

The report said monetary conditions remain tight. Interest rates have been cut nine times since the pound sterling joined the European Community currency grid in late 1990 but many economists believe further cuts are needed to ensure a sustained recovery.

The OECD expects Britain's budget and trade deficits to remain wide.



Mobutu Sese Seko

Wealthy Mobutu tells Zaireans to bring back cash

KINSHASA (R) — Zaire's President Mobutu Sese Seko, reputed to be one of the world's richest leaders, has urged his compatriots to repatriate money held abroad.

"It is unacceptable to ask foreigners to invest here while we Zaireans fail to show a spirit of confidence in our own country," Mr. Mobutu said in a midnight television broadcast.

The president, who has ruled Zaire with a rod of iron since taking power in 1965, said Zaireans with hard currency assets abroad should invest to help rebuild the shattered economy.

"Free enterprise and the privatisation of certain publicly-owned companies will provide a framework in which national and foreign capital can compete," he said.

Investor confidence was destroyed by army-led looting last September. Few of the 15,000 expatriates who fled abroad have returned and big firms are either shut or just ticking over.

Mr. Mobutu has never put a figure on his personal wealth although foreign and domestic critics, in books and public statements, have estimated it at several billion dollars. He is known to have sumptuous residences in France, Belgium, the United States and Ivory Coast.

French Minister Bernard Kouchner described Mr. Mobutu last October as "a walking bank account in a leopard-skin bonnet" who should be made to hand back his embezzled fortune.

Mr. Mobutu said the "rule of law which we want to establish in the heart of Africa will guarantee the right of all parties to enjoy their property and assets."

Mr. Mobutu hit out at Zaire's politicians, presumably the opposition leaders who are battling to end his reign. He accused them of "manipulation, intoxication and demagoguery." The consequences were a generalised climate of insecurity and an unprecedented deterioration of the economic situation.

"If the politician of 1960 was an anarchist, the politician of 1990 is really malicious and, moreover, ill-intentioned since he is better trained intellectually," he said.

"Geographical proximity should not be underestimated. Transportation facilities across the Black Sea shores with navigable rivers flowing into it are incompatible with any region of the world," businessman Nihat Gokyigit told the Turkish daily news.

U.S. banks cut prime rates to six per cent

WASHINGTON (R) — Responding to a jump in U.S. unemployment last month and signs the economic recovery is faltering, the U.S. central bank Thursday cut a key interest rate one-half point to three per cent.

The Federal Reserve (Fed) cut its discount rate, which it charges on loans to banks and is a benchmark for rates throughout the economy.

The cut brought the discount rate, the most direct lever the Fed has to spur the economy, to its lowest level in nearly 29 years.

The Fed's move came after the government said the U.S. unemployment rate jumped to an eight-year high in June — a potent sign that the recovery has failed to improve the lot of most Americans.

In its report, the Labour Department said the jobless rate rose to 7.8 per cent from 7.5 per cent in May.

"It's not good news," President George Bush told reporters. "It's too much."

But the president insisted the jobs report did not reflect the health of the economy and said: "We're confident it will grow in the second quarter."

"By any measure, the number was a significant disappointment for the Federal Reserve and for the Bush administration," said economist Matthew Alexy at First Boston Corp. "This number is nothing less than a real disaster and it comes on the heels of weakness in other categories."

Last month more people entered the work force searching for jobs that did not exist while many corporations continued cutting thousands of workers.

Shortly after the Fed lowered the short-term rate, banks eased their prime rates, the rates charged their best business customers.

Morgan Guaranty Bank, Bank of America and Citibank, among others, cut their prime rates to six per cent from 6.5 per cent, effective immediately.

The Fed hopes cheaper credit will spur businesses and consumers to borrow and spend, sparking demand in the sluggish economy. Fed policymakers have been steadily lowering rates but that has so far failed to spur the economy out of its slowest recovery since World War II.

In another worrisome sign, the Commerce Department reported Thursday that factory orders fell 0.8 per cent in May, showing that manufacturing is stagnating after rising in the spring.

The financial markets had expected the Fed to move because of a string of recent weak economic news. Stocks fell sharply after the rate cut as worries mounted that the weak economy would eat into corporate profits.

Meanwhile, derided by Republicans and virtually moribund, industrial policy has leaped back to life during the election campaign as a key to building U.S. economic strength.

There are industries we've got to keep in the country, and we're losing them left and right," he said in a recent magazine interview. "If we forfeit whole industries... we will have a Third World-nation standard of living."

Mr. Clinton has a more mixed approach combining government and the free market.

He would spend \$220 billion over the next four years on high speed trains, fiber optics, roads and urban infrastructure. He also wants an agency that will nurture biotechnology, robotics, high-speed computing, and environmental technology.

But the idea of a U.S. agency to help certain industries along has long been opposed by free-market ideologues.

"I don't think we ought to have industrial planning. I don't believe in targeting," Mr. Bush said in a recent New York Times interview.

But Mr. Bush's Republicans are divided.

"The laissez-faire group is fighting a rear-guard action, kicking and screaming all the way," Mr. Prestowitz said.

The traditional opposition is

waning because of growing overseas competition. Without government backing, proponents say, U.S. industry will fall hopelessly behind.

"Our competitors abroad, whether in France, England, Germany or Japan... are taking a more active role than ours in encouraging investment in infrastructure and new technology," Felix Rohatyn, a prominent New York investment banker, wrote recently.

"So far the (U.S.) government has sadly failed even to conceive any large plans to involve business and labour in increased domestic and foreign investment," he said.

Mr. Perot wants to roll back anti-trust laws to allow companies to combine and compete against foreign industrial and financial groups.

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Hughes Aircraft to cut 9,000 jobs

LOS ANGELES (R) — Military contractor Hughes Aircraft Co., forced by the end of the cold war to consolidate, has said it will lay off more than 9,000 employees, or 15 per cent of its workforce.

Hughes, a unit of General Motors Corp., said the job cuts over the next 18 months, mostly in economically hard-hit southern

California, will mean an after-tax restructuring charge of 749 million.

Hughes said that by the end of 1993 its total employment, including attrition and retirement, will be about 50,000 compared with a peak of 62,000 in 1986. Hughes already has cut 3,000 jobs this year.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One Sterling	1.9147/52	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.2008/13	Canadian dollar
	1.5133/38	Deutsche marks
	1.7048/53	Dutch guilders
	1.3552/62	Swiss francs
	31.07/11	Belgian francs
	5.0870/920	French francs
	1145/1147	Italian lire
	124.45/50	Japanese yen
	5.4670/730	Swedish crowns
	5.9270/320	Norwegian crowns
	5.8150/200	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	\$345.80/346.30	

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

TOKYO — Stocks ended mixed after giving up strong intra-day gains. Investors became cautious as the Nikkei neared 17,000, but expectations of easier credit gave the market firm support. The 225-share Nikkei average was down 39.85 to 16,717.78.

ZURICH — Swiss shares closed higher as the U.S. discount rate cut raised hopes for lower interest rates in Europe. The all-share SPI closed 7.3 points higher at 1,811.6.

PARIS — A handful of blue chips drifted up on a breeze of light buying. The CAC-40 index rose 10.12 points to 1,883.64.

LONDON — Shares ended with solid gains on speculation of an imminent cut in U.K. interest rates. The FTSE 100 index finished up 21.0 points at 2497.1.

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EC envoy flies to Sarajevo for peace talks as airlift starts

SARAJEVO (R) — European Community (EC) envoy Lord Carrington arrived in Sarajevo Friday for peace talks with the warring sides in Bosnia-Herzegovina and an international airlift of emergency supplies got into full swing.

U.S. and British planes touched down with humanitarian supplies for the 300,000 people trapped in the Bosnian capital by a three-month Serb siege and more planes were expected from Greece, Britain, Norway, Italy and Germany.

Lord Carrington flew into Sarajevo airport under the watchful guns of United Nations peacekeeping forces guarding the airfield, a battle zone until this week.

He was due to hold separate talks with leaders of the Serb paramilitary forces besieging Sarajevo and the mainly Muslim and Croat units holding out for Bosnian independence.

"I think we have got to persuade them to go back and start talking because this is the only way in the end that we are going to get a political settlement," Lord Carrington said before leaving London.

He is launching a new attempt to end a year of ethnic fighting in the Balkan federation's former territories in which about 14,000 people have been killed, 7,500 in

them in Bosnia.

An EC conference he is chairing on Yugoslavia and talks on Bosnia's future have been stalled without agreement.

Sarajevo residents said rival forces exchanged fire during the night but the Bosnian capital was mostly quiet Friday.

The relative lull in the fighting which has devastated the city gave the green light for the start of a huge international airlift.

A British Hercules transport plane landed with food and logistical aid. A U.S. Hercules from the Rhein-Main Air Base near Frankfurt hastily unladen emergency aid and flew out without switching its engines off.

U.N. officials said the airlift, which follows the arrival of French planes with aid earlier this week, was finally well under way with planes due almost hourly.

U.N. officer Jorge Reta of Argentina said at the airport: "We are expecting a lot of planes today. It is going to be the busiest day yet."

The airlift will soon have brought more than 100 tonnes of aid to Sarajevo, but residents say much more is required to satisfy the needs of a city where almost no food is left.

Lord Carrington faces a huge task seeking a rapprochement between the rival factions. Each blames the other for the fighting

and the repeated failures of cease-fires have ebbed away the last remnants of mutual trust.

He will meet Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic, a Muslim, Serb leader Radovan Karadzic and a Croat team.

Their forces continued fighting while the U.N. was securing control of the airport this week from Serb forces.

In London, Bosnia's Muslim Foreign Minister Haris Silajdzic accused the Serbs of trying to punch a corridor through Bosnia from Serbia to Serb-held land in Croatia.

"Since everything is focused on the airport (to Sarajevo) now there is a major offensive in northern Bosnia," Mr. Silajdzic told Reuters on his way to Saudi Arabia.

Mr. Karadzic made no mention of battles in the north but told reporters that the Serbs had lost ground in recent fighting in east Bosnia-Herzegovina, where Croat units are advancing.

He said Serb units controlled 55 to 60 per cent of Bosnia, compared with estimates of 65 to 70 per cent last month.

Mr. Karadzic also accused the EC of trying to impose its own solutions on Bosnia hours before talks.

"Lord Carrington and (Portuguese mediator Jose) Cutileiro

are very capable but the EC is an interested side in the conflict," said Mr. Karadzic. "The EC is imposing solutions without regard for local judgements."

All sides have criticised the United States and the EC's handling of the crisis.

Muslims have demanded international military intervention, but Mr. Karadzic said he had written to U.S. President George Bush to warn him that military intervention would end in disaster.

Mr. Bush made clear at a news conference in Washington Thursday that the United States had no intention of getting involved in ground fighting in former Yugoslavia.

"I don't think there is a great eagerness to put American troops there (in Bosnia) on the ground," he said.

The Pentagon said Washington was pulling seven ships with 2,200 Marines and attack helicopters out of the Adriatic Sea.

Their deployment had been seen as a show of force intended to put pressure on Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic, a former Communist who is widely blamed for the bloodshed.

Demonstrators held the latest of many big anti-government protests in Belgrade but Mr. Milosevic shows no sign of stepping down.

Buthelezi praises De Klerk proposals

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Zulu leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi Friday praised the South African government's proposal for an emergency summit on democracy and violence between President F.W. De Klerk, Nelson Mandela and himself.

"I think such a meeting between myself, Mr. Mandela and the state president will be a good thing to address violence and the crisis," Mr. Buthelezi told a local radio station.

Mr. De Klerk, making the proposal in an address to the nation Thursday evening, vowed not to be brow-beaten in democracy talks and accused Mr. Mandela's African National Congress (ANC) of plotting to seize power.

Bot his proposal had a cool reception from Bantu Holomisa, powerful pro-ANC ruler of the Transkei tribal homeland.

"No one in South Africa in his sober senses would support Mr. De Klerk government's call for a meeting between the republic of South Africa, KwaZulu and the ANC to discuss the violence," Mr. Holomisa said.

He said other leaders should be involved in the summit, especially black radical groups which have so far refused to take part in multi-party democracy talks.

Mr. Holomisa, one of Mr. Buthelezi's strongest critics, said he wanted to make sure "Mr. De Klerk and his cronies do not determine the pace of change and negotiations unilaterally."

The ANC, enraged by the June 17 massacre of 43 people in the ANC stronghold of Boipatong, has withdrawn from democracy talks, putting the multi-party Convention for a Democratic South Africa (CODESA) on hold and accusing the government of not doing enough to halt township violence.

It accused Mr. De Klerk of clinging to power and failing to protect black people and charged white-led security forces and loyalists of Mr. Buthelezi's Inkatha Freedom Party with taking part in the worst killing of the apartheid reform era.

Mr. De Klerk did not propose any special security measures to quell unrest and Law and Order Minister Hennis Kriel said later no resort to emergency rule was considered.

But the white reformist leader proposed an emergency summit with Mr. Mandela and Mr. Buthelezi to address the crisis.

ANC spokeswoman Gill Marcus said the National Working Committee, the movement's inner cabinet, would meet soon to consider Mr. De Klerk's proposal.

"The memorandum has to be looked at in its entirety. The ANC will respond in the near future, within seven days, but probably not as long as seven days," she said.

Mr. De Klerk said the government did not seek confrontation but would not tolerate any attempt by the ANC and its allies to force their views on others.

Miyazawa visits U.K. for pre-G7 talks

LONDON (R) — Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa arrived in Britain Friday on a three-day visit ahead of a summit of the Group of Seven (G7) industrial nations in Germany.

Mr. Miyazawa, on his first official visit to Britain as premier, will meet Britain's Prime Minister John Major, European Commission President Jacques Delors and Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney during his stay in London.

In the light of a swelling trade surplus with European Community (EC) members, Mr. Miyazawa is expected to explain his plans to spur a flagging economy to create markets for more foreign goods.

He will seek European support for Japan's demand that Russia can only expect major aid from Tokyo once it returns the four islands off the coast of northern Japan that it seized at the end of World War II.

Mr. Miyazawa won an offer of support from U.S. President George Bush to resolve the territorial dispute during a stopover in Washington.

The G7, which groups Germany, Japan, the United States, Canada, France, Italy and Britain, meets in Munich on July 6-8.

Economic and trade issues will dominate Mr. Miyazawa's meetings with EC officials, British officials said.

The EC Commission expressed concern in a report last month about the expanding trade gap between the 12-nation bloc and Japan and sought improved EC access to Japanese markets.

Japan's trade surplus with the 12 EC nations rose 48 per cent to a record \$27.4 billion in 1991 after falling for three consecutive years.

Japan said Friday that it was caught off guard by a remark by U.S. President George Bush backing Russian membership of the Group of Seven (G7) industrial nations.

Japan has refused to sign a peace treaty with Russia or give it large-scale aid because of a territorial dispute with Moscow.

"The Japanese government did not expect this," Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Nobuo Ishihara told a news conference.

"We will draw a conclusion after listening to the views of other summit members."

Mr. Bush said Thursday that Russian membership would be on the agenda at next week's annual G7 summit in Munich.

"I will be prepared to discuss this, making it the G8 if you will," Bush told reporters.

Japan wants to make its territorial dispute a common issue among G7 nations so that it will not be isolated on the question of aid to Russia.

Soviet troops invaded four small islands off Hokkaido, Japan's northernmost main island, in the closing days of World War II.

After the summit, G7 leaders will meet Russian President Boris Yeltsin in Munich to discuss how they can help him move towards a free market economy.

The Tokyo Foreign Ministry spokeswoman declined to comment on a news agency report that Mr. Miyazawa might meet Mr. Yeltsin separately after the Munich summit.

Japan reacted coolly Friday to Mr. Yeltsin's bitter accusation that as it had not contributed one penny to his reform efforts, it could not expect a solution to their 47-year territorial dispute.

"Perhaps President Yeltsin exaggerated too much. We hope it was a slip of tongue," a Japanese Foreign Ministry official said.

"We are trying not to get too excited."

In Friday's early edition of Komsomolskaya Pravda, Mr. Yeltsin said Moscow would resist any arm-twisting on handing over a group of remote islands claimed by Japan.

The dispute over the four small islands has prevented Tokyo and Moscow from signing a peace treaty. It has also become an explosive issue for Russia's increasingly influential nationalist movement.

"Japan is the only country which has not contributed a penny, a half a dollar or even half a yen to Russia. The other six (G7) countries are contributing, some more, some less, most of all Germany," Mr. Yeltsin said.

"But Japan (gives) nothing. What kind of an attitude is that?" he said.

The Japanese official said Mr. Yeltsin was wrong. "It was an insult. Japan defied opposition from some quarters and by the sweat of its brow has made a considerable financial contribution. We need to clarify his misunderstanding."

In October 1991, shortly before the collapse of the Soviet Union, Tokyo announced a \$2.5 billion package to Moscow to help speed up its economic and democratic reforms.

This included \$1.8 billion in trade insurance guarantees, \$200 million in export credits and \$500 million in emergency food and medicine.

But Tokyo insists that there will be no large-scale aid to Moscow before two countries sign a peace treaty.

Japanese officials figures put total Japanese investment in the former Soviet Union at the end of March at \$299 million in 61 projects.

Storm clouds grow over Italian finance minister

ROME (R) — Italian Prime Minister Giuliano Amato was under pressure Friday to dismiss Finance Minister Giovanni Goria or risk the collapse of his five-day-old government.

Opposition politicians are baying for Mr. Goria's head in connection with two unrelated scandals which have called into question his moral credentials.

"He's got to go and quickly," said Leoluca Orlando, leader of the small Rete (Network) Re-

formist group. "We can't have moral questions hanging over ministers."

The storm has blown up just as Mr. Amato faces a statutory confidence motion in the Chamber of Deputies which he must win to survive. The vote is expected Saturday.

Mr. Goria came under attack after one of his former top aides was arrested in connection with a municipal bribery scandal rocking the Italian establishment.

Democrats hired firm to probe Bush son's dealings

WASHINGTON (R) — The Democratic Party acknowledged hiring a private investigator to look for wrongdoing in the financial dealings of President George Bush's son Neil with the federal government.

Party's officials denied the arrangement involved investigating members of Mr. Bush's family personally, however, and said hiring investigators was "standard practice" for both the Republican Party and the press.

But the White House quickly jumped on the issue.

"I'm not happy about it," President Bush said when asked how he felt about having his family investigated.

"Let them muck around in my garbage can, but they're not going to find anything," the president told reporters.

White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater took a stronger line, accusing Democrats of reviving political dirty tricks dating back to Richard Nixon, the Republican who was forced out of the White House in the Watergate scandal.

"The plumbers are back," Mr. Fitzwater said.

The Democrats acknowledged spending \$5,000 earlier this year on a private investigative firm, saying they asked it to look into the government's handling of the 1988 shutdown of the Silverado

Savings and Loan Association in Denver.

Mr. Bush's son Neil Bush was on the thrift's board of directors and there have been allegations the institution got favourable treatment from the government.

"It is a financial investigator," Dao Carol, the Democratic National Committee, (DNC), "opposition research" chief said of the Washington firm of Deaton and Samuel.

"We hired outside help to get the record straight and to look into the possibility of government misconduct in the nation's largest financial scandal," said DNC spokeswoman Ginny Terzano, referring to the Savings and Loan crisis.

DNC has ever hired a private research firm. "Mr. Terzano said, adding, "the Republicans have a long history of hiring outside researchers. It is standard practice for the Republicans and it is standard practice for the press."

Mr. Bush himself acknowledged that "opposition research" is common in the political world, but said he was disturbed by any hint his family was being investigated.

"I'm not sure what they're doing. All I did is read a (newspaper) story saying they are investigating my family, and you know how I feel about that," the president said.

"But I almost would say, so what's new? I've been in public life a long time and I think that kind of activity on their part has been going on a long time. I think everybody does opposition research," Mr. Bush said.

President Bush leads independent Ross Perot in the latest poll reported by Cable News Network Wednesday with Democratic Bill Clinton in third place but gaining ground in the Nov. 3 presidential race.

The CNN-Gallup poll of more than 2,000 registered voters gave Mr. Bush 33 per cent of the vote, Mr. Perot 32 per cent and Mr. Clinton 27 per cent.

The poll's margin of error was 3 percentage points, meaning actual results could vary by that much up or down.

An ABC News-Washington Post poll released Monday gave Mr. Clinton 33 per cent to 30 per cent for Mr. Perot and 29 per cent for Mr. Bush, putting Mr. Clinton at the top of the field for the first time in this presidential election year.

But that poll's margin of error of 3.5 percentage points meant the three men were in a virtual dead heat, statistically speaking.

In the CNN-Gallup poll, 36 per cent of those surveyed said Mr. Clinton had the better economic plan, 22 per cent opted for Mr. Bush and 20 per cent for Mr. Perot.

More than two-thirds said Mr. Perot should become a candidate for president while 25 per cent said he should not run, CNN said.

The maverick Texas billionaire has not yet formally entered the race though he is all but certain to do so.

Meanwhile, astrologers gathering here say the outlook is still hazy, but the alignment of the solar system indicates that Mr. Perot stands a decent chance of being elected U.S. president come November.

The stock market, like President Bush and Mr. Clinton, may take a tumble in November according to placet-watchers, some 4,000 of whom meet here Thursday for a meeting of the American Federation of Astrologers, one of the world's largest such gatherings.

In his examination of the planets' positions, and the cosmic forces they will exert, astrologist Mohan Koppertkar, who is on the federation's board of governors, said Mr. Clinton's star will fall.

Mr. Bush may be due for a setback, while Mr. Perot will get lucky.

"Ross Perot, his chart indicates probably one of the better opportunities," the Indian-born Koppertkar, 44, told Reuters.

"But it will be more a matter of luck for him just happening to be at the right place at the right time in the right environment," he added.

COLUMN 8

Nuns, priests ransack factory to reclaim church

MOSCOW (R) — Workers at Moscow's construction factory number 46 arrived to find their shop-floor being ransacked — by nuns, priests and children. It was like a re-run, but in reverse, of scenes of Bolsheviks destroying churches during the 1917 Russian Revolution. In the current post-Communist era, Moscow's Roman Catholic community was reclaiming the Church of the Immaculate Conception, seized by dictator Josef Stalin in 1937. The church, which once had a parish of 5,000 and a capacity of about 1,500, is set to become the biggest Catholic church in Moscow and one of the largest in Russia.

Relations between the Vatican and Moscow, and between the Orthodox and Roman Catholic churches, were cool for many years, but revived when the Vatican named Monsignor Francesco Colasacco as its Moscow envoy in April 1990. For 55 years the church housed a state-owned factory, producing household appliances and light fittings. But the mayor of Moscow, Yuri Luzhkov, said he would hand back the church to the Catholics. The only problem was that he had omitted to explain how they were to move back into a building fully converted into a factory and packed with machines and equipment.

The dispute over the four small islands has prevented Tokyo and Moscow from signing a peace treaty. It has also become an explosive issue for Russia's increasingly influential nationalist movement.

"Japan is the only country which has not contributed a penny, a half a dollar or even half a yen to Russia. The other six (G7) countries are contributing, some more, some less, most of all Germany," Mr. Yeltsin said.

"But Japan (gives) nothing. What kind of an attitude is that?" he said.

The Japanese official said Mr. Yeltsin was wrong. "It was an insult. Japan defied opposition from some quarters and by the sweat of its brow has made a considerable financial contribution. We need to clarify his misunderstanding."

In October 1991, shortly before the collapse of the Soviet Union, Tokyo announced a \$2.5 billion package to Moscow to help speed up its economic and democratic reforms.

This included \$1.8 billion in trade insurance guarantees, \$200 million in export credits and \$500 million in emergency food and medicine.

But Tokyo insists that there will be no large-scale aid to Moscow before two countries sign a peace treaty.

Japanese officials figures put total Japanese investment in the former Soviet Union at the end of March at \$299 million in 61 projects.

Yeltsin gets pay rise

MOSCOW (R) — The Russian parliament has given President Boris Yeltsin a pay rise, bringing his earnings to 21 times the minimum wage — or about \$150 a month. But ITAR-TASS news agency, which reported the pay increase Thursday, did not say how much Mr. Yeltsin had earned before. The minimum wage was set earlier this year at 950 roubles a month, or about \$7 at the central bank's unified exchange rate. This puts Yeltsin's pay at almost 20,000 roubles or about \$150. Average wages are about 3,000 roubles a month (\$22).

Scots told to wear nothing under their kilts

LONDON (R) — Caber-tossing Scots have been told to drop their kilts — or take off their trousers. The governing body of Scotland's Highland Games says too many competitors have taken to wearing tracksuit bottoms, leg-warmers and even tights in defiance of the rules. "From now on competitors will wear either the kilt or a tracksuit — not a combination of both," said Gregor Nicholson of the Scottish Amateur Athletics Association. "The rule will be rigidly enforced this summer," the Daily Telegraph newspaper quoted him as saying. Highland Games take place throughout the summer. The most famous event is tossing the caber, in which competitors throw a roughly-trimmed tree trunk.

Irish police lock drunks in arms store

DUBLIN (R) — Three drunks locked up for the night by Irish police passed the time playing catch with arms and ammunition found in their cell. Police headquarters in Dublin said an inquiry was under way into the security breach, which happened in Castlebar in western Ireland. The arms — an Uzi machine gun, three revolvers and up to 20,000 rounds of ammunition — were being stored in the cell after police weapons training. Police discovered their mistake when they heard one of the drunks banging against the wall with the Uzi. "It had to be sent to Dublin to be repaired," one officer said.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

French truckers' protest strands tourists

PARIS (R) — Angry truckers again paralysed France Friday in a fifth day of roadblock protests that stranded thousands of foreign tourists. The main north-south motorway, gateway to Mediterranean resorts, remained cut off in several places north and south of Paris, despite all-night talks between government officials and the protesters. The truckers are demanding favourable treatment in a new driving licence system under which drivers can lose their licence by accumulating penalties. The government has agreed not to use the trucks' sealed travel recorders to check for speeding offences. Riot police cleared access to a fuel near Lyon after Mayor Michel Noir voiced concern about an acute petrol shortage in the country's second biggest city. Truckers' leaders agreed to end later in the day their blockade of Toulouse, in the southwest, but they appeared hard-pressed to convince colleagues to clear juggernauts from the roads.

U.S. team will search for lost Inca gold

MIAMI (R) — A team of treasure-hunters leaves Sunday on a hi-tech search for the legendary lost gold of the Incas, believed to have lain hidden in Ecuador's mountains for four centuries. The team, sponsored by more than two dozen U.S. companies, is led by Oswaldo Garces, an Ecuadorian who says he can trace his roots back to the family of Atahualpa, the last great Inca ruler. He believes fate set him on the trail of the treasure. "When I was a kid I dreamed of this cave and this gold," he said. "I have to do this, I have no choice." The treasure — said to consist of gold statues, masks, ornaments, jewellery, gold ore, emeralds and other gems — is believed to have been hidden in a cave in the Llanganati Mountains in central Ecuador by followers of Atahualpa. The Inca king was captured in the 1530s by Spanish conquistadores under the command of Francisco Pizarro, who demanded a ransom for his return. The Incas paid "a room full of gold" but Atahualpa was not released by the Spaniards. Hoping more treasure would buy the king's freedom, the Incas assembled a golden caravan. Garces said in an interview as he prepared for his departure. An estimated 60,000 Incas were marching to the Spaniards' stronghold when they learned Atahualpa had been executed. The Incas hid their treasure in a cave, or perhaps under a lake, and returned to avenge their dead ruler in battle.

Bush congratulates Ramos

MANILA (AP) — President George Bush telephoned newly elected President Fidel Ramos to congratulate him on assuming office and to assure him of U.S. support for the Philippines, a spokeswoman said Friday. Gen. Ramos' spokeswoman, Annabell Teson-Abaya, said Mr. Bush telephoned Gen. Ramos at his office at 8:30 p.m. (1230 GMT) Thursday. She did not say how long they talked. "In this occasion, President Bush warmly congratulated President Ramos on his victory in the recent polls, which the White House closely watched and followed," Ms. Teson-Abaya said. "In the conversation, President Bush assured President Ramos that he will do everything that his government can do in order to help the Philippines," she said. Mr. Bush also informed Gen. Ramos, a West Point graduate, that he was sending soon Washington's new ambassador to Manila, Richard Solomon, former assistant secretary of state for Asia-Pacific affairs.

Outspoken Thai mayor killed by bomb

BANGKOK (R) — The outspoken mayor of Surin in Thailand's impoverished northeast was killed by a powerful bomb planted under the seat of his pick-up truck, police said. Sanit Lokasemsant, 35, was killed instantly, along with his secretary and a driver, when his vehicle blew up shortly after he left his office, police said. Sanit, an influential businessman in Surin, the provincial capital 450 kilometres northeast of Bangkok, said last month he was in a fight for control of the local chamber of commerce. He attacked his opponents for trying to influence the town's politics without contributing to its economic development. The mayor, who owned two hotels, a shopping plaza and other businesses in the town, also spoke out against vote-buying in his province, which he said was rampant during the electioneering for the March 22 general election. The rural northeast, where per capita income is less than an eighth of what it is in Bangkok, gave support to pro-military parties in the election.

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